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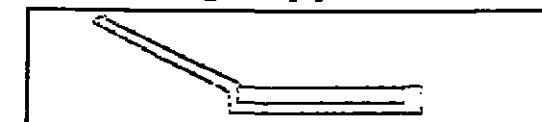
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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Close call for winner of crucial Israeli elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)—Divided Israeli voters headed to the polls Wednesday in an election that was described as a referendum on the Middle East peace process.

With Israelis voting separately for a prime minister and parliament, observers believe that whoever is elected leader will face protracted haggling to form a coalition and a government within 45 days. The votes of Israel's Arab population were likely to go to Peres while religious parties supported Netanyahu.

The last poll before voting began gave Prime Minister Shimon Peres a razor-thin 50 percent to 48 percent edge—less than the margin of error, over right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu, with pollsters saying the outcome was too close to call.

Polls opened early this morning under heavy security and were to close at 10 pm local time, when the country's two TV stations were to broadcast exit polls.

Unofficial results were expected by Thursday morning, but the outcome may not be known for days if the race is as tight as pre-election polls indicated.

According to the Central Elections Committee, 41.6 percent of those eligible voted in the first seven hours after voting began, indicating a heavy turnout.

Just after voting, Peres called the election a referendum

on the peace process. "I think it is a historic decision—one road leads to peace; the other, to settlements," he said. "I hope the nation chooses peace."

Israel more than tripled security amid warnings that Islamic militants would disrupt voting with suicide attacks. About 26,000 police and soldiers were deployed throughout the country, including 3,000 in the Arab sector of Jerusalem.

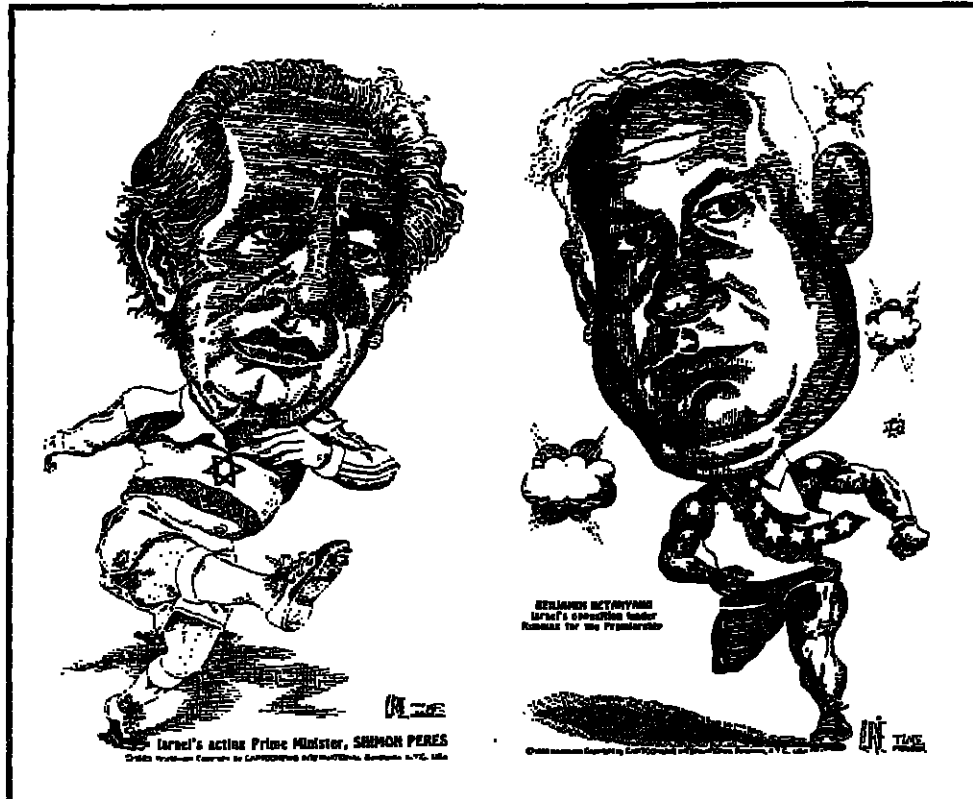
Israeli troops sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the two million Palestinians on election day and searched cars of even the 130,000 Jewish settlers allowed to enter Israel.

Peres, who had termed the election the most important since Israel's creation in 1948, cancelled afternoon appearances and was given extra protection after a flurry of death threats by rightwing Jews.

Security had been the main issue of the campaign following four suicide bombings that killed 59 people in Israel in February and March.

Peres, seeking to reassure Israelis, had drastically limited the movement of Palestinians and launched his "Grapes of Wrath" onslaught on Lebanon that killed more than 200 people, most of them civilians.

Netanyahu cast his ballot near his Jerusalem home and left little doubt whom he hopes will win. "I think we have to choose between a future bright with hope and peace and security and the present that offers little hope, little peace and little



Israel's acting Prime Minister, SHIMON PERES, and Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition, are competing for the presidency.

security," Netanyahu said as he voted. "And I think they (voters) will make the right choice."

Netanyahu's only prior experience in office was as ambassador to the United Nations and deputy foreign minister.

Peres is 25 years older than Netanyahu and an experienced statesman. As foreign minister, Peres was widely credited for

the historic 1993 Israel-PLO autonomy accord.

Those who support Peres believe their long-term safety lies with his peace initiative.

In contrast to Peres, Netanyahu said he would withdraw Israel's promise to discuss the future of Jerusalem with Palestinians, accelerate Jewish settlement of occupied land and rule out creation of a Palestinian state.

Talks with Syria, a US priority, would be more difficult because Netanyahu has opposed Peres's offer to return at least part of the Golan Heights.

In a feisty televised debate three days before national elections, Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday urged voters

to support Peres.

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to support Peres.

Le tourisme attend de meilleurs jours
A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURDAIN

Arrests escalate tension between Kabariti and Islamists

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer

FOR THE past two years the relation between the government and the Islamists has been at the tight-end of the pendulum. The Jordanian political system succeeded in creating an ideal model to prevent violent conflicts in the country. The Islamic movement fitted nicely in this model despite the widening gap with the government, especially since the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. However, observers believe that this relation has taken a turn for the worst recently.

The pragmatic Muslim Brotherhood, and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) which are considered to be part and

parcel of the country's political system, feel that the time is over for them.

The latest arrests in the ranks of the Brotherhood during the last few months, added more tension between the two parties.

"Arrests have not stopped since 1991, but, arrest campaigns have increased during the short-life of the present government," said a Muslim Brotherhood spokesman.

About 40 influential figures in the movement were arrested during the past three months. No charges are yet filed against them, but Dr Marwan Al Muasher, the minister of information, asserts that "arrests are in accordance with the law." He also rejects reports accusing the government of violating

Continued on page 3

Election unlikely to uproot mutual distrust in West Bank

By John Daniszewski
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

HEBRON, Israeli-Occupied West Bank—From the rooftop terrace of his centuries-old house, among the potted plants and clotheslines, Palestinian businessman Abu Samir Sharbati looks down at courtyard of a newly built apartment block of where children of Jewish settlers play merrily on tricycles.

"I do not believe I will ever look out my window and see that they are gone," he says dolefully. "Those people are there out of a deep belief that this is where they must be."

It is a sentiment shared by David Wilder, assistant director of the Jewish Community of Hebron. A native of Bergen County, New Jersey in the United States, says he and other settlers have come back to one of the most important Jewish centers of the Bible—the city of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—and will stay. Wilder and Sharbati have two visions, but one city.

As Israelis went to the polls Wednesday in a vote seen as a referendum on the very future of the nation, perhaps nowhere are the stakes higher than in Hebron, where 415 Jewish settlers definitely exist in a sea of hostility from their 120,000

Palestinian neighbors. If Labor Party candidate Shimon Peres wins re-election as prime minister, he has promised to turn the city over to the Palestinian police of Yasser Arafat, except for the immediate neighborhood of the Jewish settlement, where Israeli soldiers will continue to patrol.

The opposition hopeful, Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, promises to stop Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and to renew the government's support for the settler movement, whose aim is to reintroduce Jewish population in the former Biblical lands

Continued on page 2

Arabs states, officially silent, lean to Peres

By John Lancaster
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

CAIRO—Fearing that a victory by Israel's right-wing Likud party in national elections Wednesday could delay or even derail Middle East peace talks, moderate Arab leaders are quietly pulling for the Labor Party government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres, albeit with little enthusiasm.

From Egypt to the Gulf, moderate Arab politicians are reluctant to identify too closely with Peres, who is the focus of widespread Arab anger stemming from last month's Israeli bombardment of Lebanon as well as his decision to impose severe security measures on Gaza and the West Bank.

At the same time, officials in these countries are deeply concerned about the possibility of a victory by Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, given his vocal opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state and declared intention to expand Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

In Riyadh, the Saudi capital, earlier this month, a senior government official expressed the view that "a Likud government in Israel... will definitely not just delay the peace process, it will unravel it."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added: "Our expectation is that not only would there be no progress, but this government would take aggressive moves (that could) lead us to the brink of war."

Not every Arab official takes such an apocalyptic view. Some contend that there are fewer differences between the two candidates than meet the eye. Peres, they note, has repositioned himself in recent months as more of a hawk, while Netanyahu has tried to distance himself from his party's more extreme positions on the Middle East peace process.

Al Hayat, a leading Arab daily published in London, took that interpretation to its cynical extreme. In a cartoon on the newspaper's opinion page Tuesday, Peres and Netanyahu stand side by side, raising their right fists as they deliver speeches through the same megaphone.

"Without a doubt there is a difference between Labor and Likud, but I don't think it's the

difference people are talking about," said a senior Egyptian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "I don't think Likud is anti-peace, and I don't think Labor is for peace at any price." He added: "This election is not about Likud and Labor; it's about whether you want to take the chance for peace. Whoever is elected, if

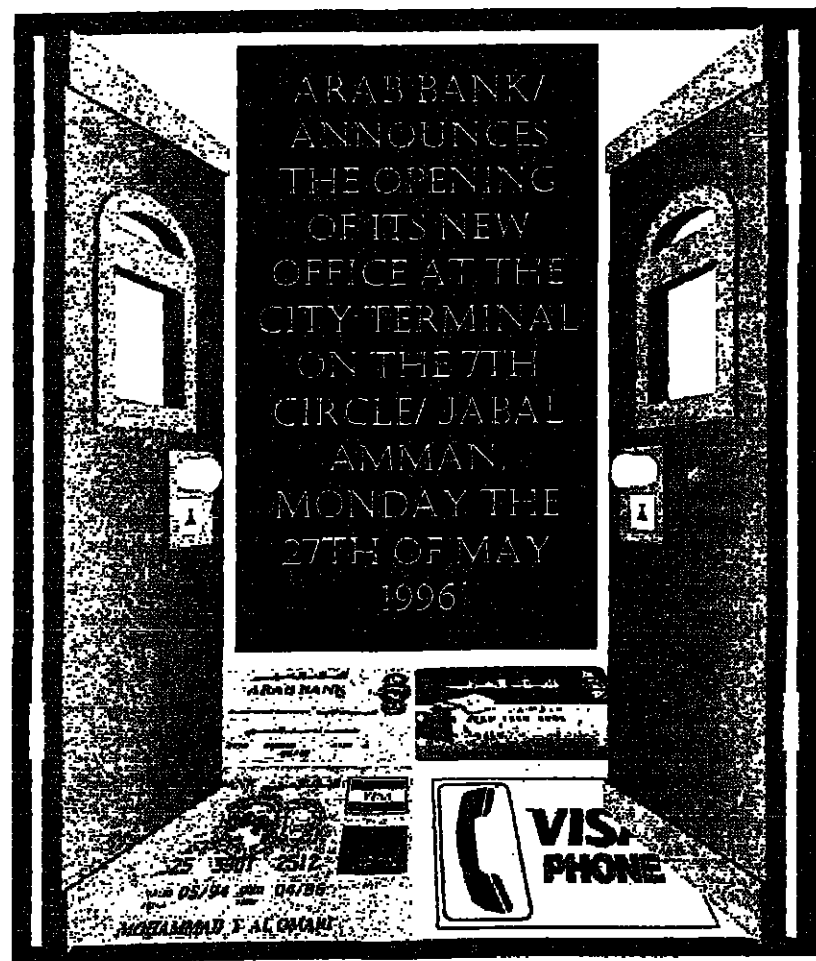
they don't offer the Palestinians a Palestinian state, you're not going to have a successful peace process."

The official acknowledged, however, that a Labor victory is more likely to lead to "a quick resumption of the peace process," which has lost momentum in recent months. Negotiations between Syria and Israel are

deadlocked over the fate of the Golan Heights, a strategically situated plateau overlooking Israel's Sea of Galilee that was seized by Israel in 1967. Syria has insisted that Israel commit to full withdrawal from the Golan in return for peace and normal relations.

Continued on page 2

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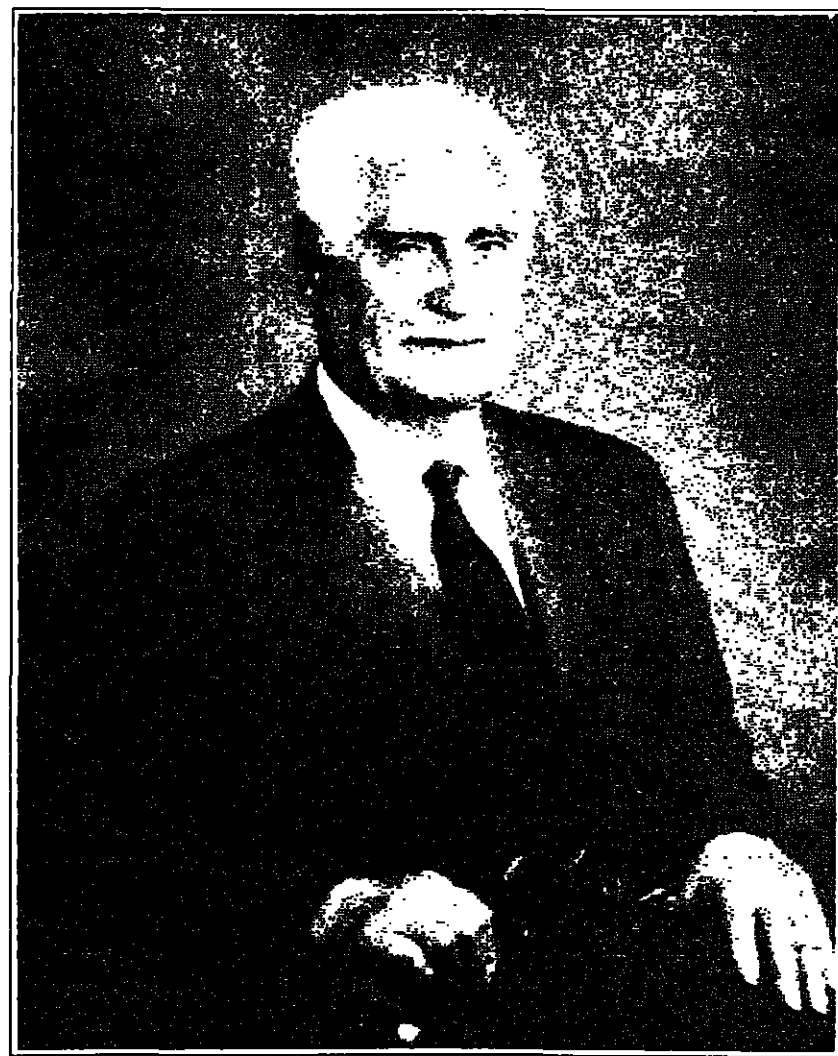
NEW YORK—Each Year the Union of Arab Banks recognizes a distinguished member for service to the cause of Arab Banking with the honour "Arab Banker of The Year."

In the course of a long and distinguished career Mr Abdul Majeed Shoman has been awarded this privilege for 1996 in an official ceremony in New York attended by dignitaries from the Banking community all over the world.

Mr Shoman has been a tireless champion in mobilizing the Arab banking community to work together in becoming a catalyst for regional and global economic development.

Through his 60 years of service to the cause of Arab banking, he has helped guide the rise of Arab Banks to center-stage among the financial institutions of the world.

As chairman of the Arab Bank, Mr Shoman has presided over the rise of this institution into a leading force in building economic and banking relations between Arab countries and the rest of the world. Under his leadership, the Bank grew from a small business concern to an international conglomerate with a total balance sheet of 23 billion dollars.





JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



His Majesty King Hussein delivered a speech during the ceremony organized by the Prime Ministry to celebrate Jordan's golden jubilee.

He said today's celebration is a reminder of the great achievements of King Abdallah, the founder of the Kingdom, and his efforts to achieve Arab unity. He added that what Jordan has accomplished up till now is an embodiment of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt led by his grandfather Sharif Hussein Ben Ali.

"Some think it is difficult for Jordan to realize the required levels because of its insufficient resources," He stressed that what is much more important than resources is "our goodwill and determination to work for a prosperous future."

He added that a 100 days are not enough to base our judgements on the performance of the new government. "Because of the big responsibilities placed on the shoulder of the government, the picture will not change in a short period of time."

The King stressed the significant role of democracy to build Jordan and lead it to a prosperous era. Every Jordanian, he said, has the right to a job to enable him to contribute to the development of this country.

Media restructuring begins

Dr Muasher's restructuring plan for the Jordanian media may finally be taking shape. Last week, two draft laws dealing with the Television and Broadcasting Corp. and the Jordan News Agency, Petra, were approved by the government. They now go to Parliament for approval. The draft laws aim to give these two public institutions complete financial and administrative independence. New boards of directors will be created to draw up policies for the running of these organizations.

Shbeilat remains JEA president

The Vice-President of the Jordanian Engineers Association

tion, Mr Husni Abu Ghaida' says that the recent decision of the Court of Cassation to uphold the verdict of the State Security Court on Leith Shbeilat will not effect his position as JEA president. Shbeilat was accused of *Leze-Majeste*, and the Court of Cassation saw no reason to reverse the State Security Court's verdict. Mr Shbeilat will now complete his three-year prison sentence.

Irbid judge survives assassination attempt

The head of the Court of First Instance in Irbid, judge Mohammad Faleh Al Shra' survived an assassination attempt last week, *Al Rai* reported. Bullets flew from a passing car just as Mr Al Shra' was leaving his

house to get to the mosque. Mr Shra' was knocked down but only slightly hurt. It is not known who his assailants were. However, Mr Shra' has received threats, but his family did not expect these to be carried out. Official sources said Mr Al Shra' was the presiding judge in the Leith Shbeilat's case. However, he could not say whether this was the reason for the attempted assassination. Sources said that other motives could be tribal. However, investigations are still carrying on.

More spies in the cupboard: This time Israelis

Israeli Intelligence could be operating in Egypt and Jordan, according to the British *Observer*. Unit 504 is dedicated to kidnap and attract collaborators. The unit's operations were discovered by chance in Jerusalem. When a Palestinian was brought before an Israeli judge in Jerusalem accused of stealing a car, an Israeli security officer approached the bench and said the accused was an Israeli agent working in Jordan.

PM Kabariti and reshuffles

It's the run of the mill again. No sooner had the Kabariti government passed its 100-day mark, whispers of a reshuffle could be heard. I hope we are not going to be subject to the reshuffle aura that we heard about every two weeks during the last Sheriff Zeid's government. In the end it was just tiresome. His government stayed in power for well over a year. Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti is not there for the taking. He has come with a strong mandate and a strong backing from His Majesty King Hussein. His "white revolution" has still a long way to go. So stop pondering into the realms of impossibility!

Rates set between Jordan and Israel

Rates for public transport between Jordan and Israel were set this week by the Minister of Transport. Mr Nasser Al

Lawzi. It will cost a passenger JD 5 to travel between Amman and Tel Aviv: Amman-Heifa JD 4, 750 fils; Amman-Nazerth JD 4,300 fils; Irbid-Nazerth, JD 3,600 fils; Irbid-Heifa, JD 3,200 fils; Aqaba-Eilat, JD 1,100 fils.

Aviation policies get a hearing

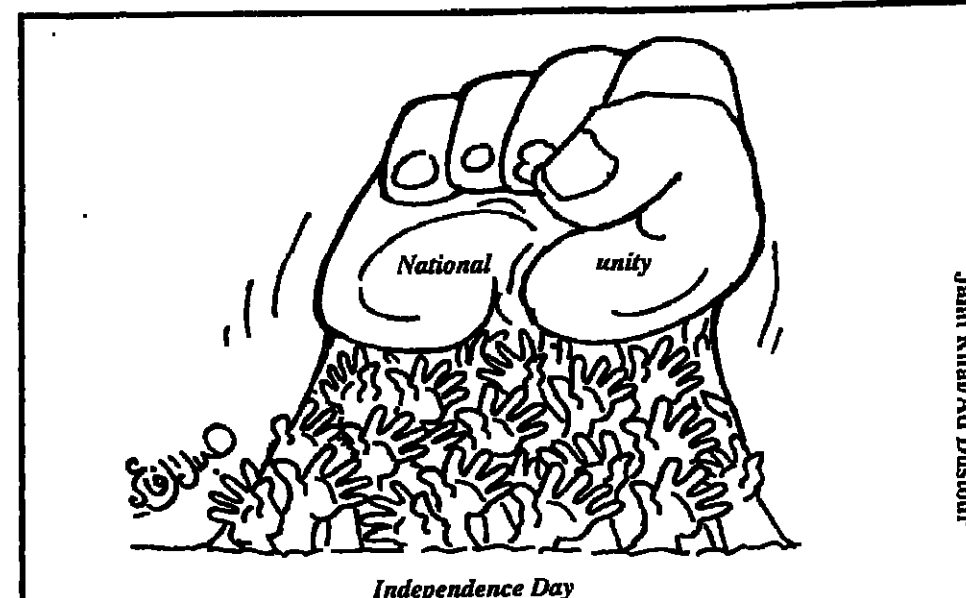
Today, Thursday, a seminar on Aviation Policies and Air Transport and its effects on the Middle East and Jordan is being held in the Institute of Diplomacy. The guest speaker is Peter Hanhal, the head of the Europe Department in the IATA.

Royal Wings to Gaza

Royal Wings, the private local airline, may start flying directly to Gaza, that is as soon as the Palestinian airport becomes fully operational. The boss of Royal Wings, Mr Ahmed Qintar says that his company is presently negotiating with the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority to fly five times a week to Gaza. Officials at Royal Wings also say that the company wants to fly to Egyptian cities but they are having difficulties. Egyptian officials say that Royal Wings is welcome to fly to their country, but that Royal Jordanian must decrease their flights in the process.

Another book refused

The Press and Publication Dept't is active again. It has just banned the distribution of a new book about Christianity. Titled *Al Nassrauniyah*, *Min Al Tawheed Ela Al Tathleeth* (Christianity: From the Unity of One to the Trinity), the book is written by Dr Mohammad Al Hajj, an Islamic Action Front deputy. Al Hajj expressed astonishment at the decision since the book was already published and distributed in Saudi Arabia. According to *Al Sabeel*, Al Hajj contacted the Press and Publication Dept't, but said he wasn't given a satisfactory answer and remained



Independence Day

Bait Al Bawadi, the place of Jordanian culture

HRH Princess Basma, accompanied by Prime Minister Abd Al Karim Kabariti, opened last Monday Bait Al Bawadi (House of Budia). This is a permanent exhibition in Abdoun displaying the handicrafts projects of the Queen Alia Fund. It provides the unemployed with job opportunities and increases family income. The exhibition displays ceramics and carpets adorned with Islamic inscriptions but which keep up with modern styles and colours.

Mr Awmi Al Basheer, executive director of the fund, said this new edifice is an embodiment of the sustaining process that provides sources for productivity. Group-work is not a service but a partnership. He added that we should activate the role of people in serving the local community. Mr Tom Oliver, head of USAID said the

agency feels proud to support this outstanding project whose developing goals are in harmony with the philosophy of the fund.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, senators, Arab and foreign diplomats, high officials of the fund and lovers of Jordanian heritage.



Mr Tom Oliver, head of USAID said the

Littering the streets: No way!

The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) will start fining drivers if they are seen littering the streets in Amman. GAM Secretary-General Dr Mamdouh Al Abbadi says "I believe its within our rights to fine drivers who drop litter from their cars in the street." He adds that article 68 of the Traffic Law allows us to do that. The municipality is presently discussing the amount to fine. But five dinars seems to be a well-rounded figure which GAM might be in favor of. Dr Abbadi says reactivating the law would certainly be very good for the making the capital cleaner.



Al Hajj



Al Abbadi

adamant about their decision. The deputy says it is a historical academic book and does not talk about modern Christianity in Jordan or anywhere else in the world. We wonder, just who makes decisions in Press and Publications or if they really ever read the books they ban.

Arab countries, officially silent, lean to Peres

Continued from page 1

Peres has hinted that he would give up the Golan in exchange for the right peace agreement. Netanyahu has said he would never do so.

Whatever the views of moderate Arab governments, they are expressed almost entirely unofficially. In contrast to the Clinton administration, which has unabashedly aligned with Peres, pro-Western Arab states maintain a studied aloofness, asserting they have no wish to involve themselves in Israeli domestic politics.

In part, that is because they know they have little influence over the outcome and will have to live with the results, even if that means Netanyahu. King Hussein, for example, is still viewed as Peres's closest Arab ally, but he has had little to say on the Israeli elections and has spent much of the campaign season travelling outside the

region.

"We have a neutral position," Minister of Information Dr Marwan Muasher said in a telephone interview. "We have signed a peace treaty with the state of Israel. A treaty that has enjoyed widespread consensus in Israel. We only hope that any government that would emerge in Israel would continue... policies... that would result in a comprehensive peace."

Without attribution, however, Jordanian officials express concern that a Likud victory could have dangerous consequences for their country. Because of Jordan's decision to sign a peace treaty with Israel before a full settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, any interruption in the peace process could add to tensions between Jordan and its Arab neighbors—especially Syria, with whom Jordan already is on shaky terms.

Close call for winner of crucial Israeli elections

Continued from page 1

to "move forward" on his course of Middle East peace-making, while challenger Netanyahu fired back that Israelis live not in peace but in fear.

The press called the half hour debate, the only one between the two men, a draw. Meanwhile, Rabin's killer, Yigal Amir, will be voting from his prison cell for the next prime minister.

Leah Rabin, widow of the slain prime minister, called for voters to back Peres and complete the peace process begun by her husband.

"We have to continue his legacy and I hope we shall win the elections," Leah Rabin told reporters after voting in Tel Aviv. "If we don't, then the murderer has won."

Palestinian reaction In his situation room in Gaza City, Palestinian leader Yasser



Arafat and close aides were monitoring the latest Israeli campaign polls on a computer.

The scrutiny reflected the Palestinians' keen concern about the outcome of Wednesday's Israeli elections—a referendum on peacemaking where they have as much at stake as the Israelis, if not more.

"We are dealing with the Israeli election as if it were our own, although the official line is that this is an Israeli affair and we are not interfering," said Sufian Abu Zaid, an Arafat adviser on Israeli affairs.

Netanyahu surged from behind in the polls three months ago after a series of Palestinian suicide bombings left Israelis feeling vulnerable about their security.

But with Netanyahu now breathing down Peres' neck in the polls, Arafat's government has not been content to merely sit back and observe the campaign.

His deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, has pressured two tiny Israeli Arab parties to withdraw from the race so thousands of Arab votes won't be siphoned away from Peres.

Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli citizen, withdrew his candidacy last week after it became clear he would not have won the 45,000 votes needed to get a seat in the 120-member parliament. Had Tibi's party, the Arab Movement for Change, stayed in the race but

failed to cross the threshold, the votes cast for the party would have been lost.

But efforts to get another small faction, the Progressive Union, to quit, have failed so far, Abu Zaid said.

Arafat was cautious Tuesday, suggesting that Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking would survive a victory by Netanyahu, who has said he will never agree to Palestinian demands for a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We have signed the agreement with the Israeli government. This is not a unilateral agreement, it is international," Arafat told reporters.

US reaction

In Washington and on Tuesday President Clinton said that the Israeli election gave voters a choice between pursuing peace with the Arabs or turning away from the US-backed process.

"They have to make the decision whether they want to pursue the peace process or not," Clinton said. "That's their decision. We believe that, ultimately, it is the only way to bring peace and security. And we want both peace and security."

While Clinton did not directly endorse Prime Minister Shimon Peres the statement reinforced an apparent US tilt toward Peres and his policy of relinquishing territory to the Arabs.

Election unlikely to uproot mutual distrust in West Bank

Continued from page 1

of "Judea and Samaria", now peopled mainly by Arabs.

The settlers regard the election as the most important one since the founding of Israel. The Palestinians say that although neither candidate would be good for them, Peres is the slightly lesser evil.

Hebron encapsulates some of the larger questions facing voters in Wednesday's election.

Should Israelis in Hebron and elsewhere in the West Bank leave the lands occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for a durable peace? Or should they remain for the sake of their national security, the roots they have grown during the past 29 years and what they believe is their Biblical birthright to this place of their forefathers?

If they stay, will Palestinians and Israel's other Arab neighbors grow resigned and make peace, or will they always be silently awaiting the chance to strike back with a knife or a gun or a suicide bomb, leaving Israel in a perpetual state of insecurity?

Most Israelis indicate a willingness to give up at least part of the West Bank in exchange for peace, but for the settlers and their sympathizers—often members of ultra-religious groups—this election is a chance to halt, or at least slow, that peace process.

"Everybody here understands that the situation is very, very serious. We're at a crossroads," said Wilder.

Among Palestinians the pre-election mood was unrelentingly gloomy, particularly because of the ongoing closure of West Bank towns for security reasons, which prevents Palestinians from earning money in Israel.

They say they are unhappy with Peres' recent performance, including the April military campaign in Lebanon, and fear he will break his promise to pull Israeli troops out of Hebron. But they believe Netanyahu would never give up the city to Palestinian rule, and therefore the settlers and the Israeli army would remain indefinitely.

"Basically, it's going to be another bad period, no matter who wins," said Ismael Hadad, an unemployed carpenter.

There are no signs on either side that the communities in Hebron would consider a third way—trying to become friends. The mutual dislike is almost palpable.

Wilder and Sharbati have never met, although the entrance to his office is close enough to Sharbati's rooftop that they could shout hello if they wished. Wilder expresses concern that a Palestinian dwelling overlooks the area where the settlers' children play.

Sharbati, who fears that the settlers will seek a pretext to confiscate his house, admits he has never made an effort to talk to them. For him, it would be dangerous; Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israelis have often been murdered.

"We will never look at them as lovable neighbors because of the way they treat us," said Noah Mohammad Ibrahim Shaludi, whose shop sits on the road where the settlers walk on their way to prayers—carrying automatic rifles for protection.

Israel opens commercial office in Qatar

Israel seeks to widen its relations with the Arab Gulf countries. An Israeli commercial office was opened last week in the capital of Qatar, Al Doha.

An Israeli businessmen delegation arrived at the capital where they met members from the Qatari chamber of commerce and industry.

The commercial office is headed by an Israeli diplomat Samuel Raphael.

Qatar is the second Gulf country to open direct relations with Israel, Oman is in the process of doing so.

MAY 1996
Arafat aic
mical US
final ta
By George S. H

Washington, May 29 (UPI)—Yasser Arafat's victory in the Israeli election was a significant step towards peace, but it was not a final step. Arafat's victory was a result of the Israeli election, which was held on May 29. The election was a referendum on peacemaking, and Arafat's victory was a clear indication that the Israeli people were in favor of peace. However, Arafat's victory was not a final step towards peace, as there are still many issues that need to be resolved. The Israeli election was a significant event, and it was a step in the right direction. However, it was not a final step, and there is still a long way to go.

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PAN EAST TOURS

Arafat aide sees crucial US role in final talks

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON—A senior member of the Palestinian Authority said here it is crucial that the United States play "an important role" in seeing that the upcoming permanent status negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel "come to a fruitful end."

In the same breath Dr Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian Minister for Planning and International Cooperation, complained that the Palestinian Authority is facing "some serious problems" in getting full US support, primarily from Congress, that is needed to bring about Middle East peace.

Dr Shaath came to Washington after the University of Pennsylvania, his alma mater, awarded him an honorary doctorate in law. He graduated from the university 31 years ago with a doctorate in business from the university's famed Wharton School, where he also taught for five years before returning to the Middle East.

In his talk at the National Association of Arab Americans Foundation (NAAAF) on 23 May, Shaath noted that although the Palestinians have fulfilled all their commitments under the peace process, they are still facing "a total freeze" in Congress on additional aid.

In 1993, at an international donors conference in Washington, the United States had pledged \$500 million to be disbursed over five years. Additional aid has been disbursed or earmarked through other US agencies.

But this is not the case with Israel, Dr Shaath pointed out. Israel is supported "financially, politically and diplomatically in every way it requires," he stressed.

"I can't continue like this. I think there is something wrong here that needs to be tackled," he argued.

"This peace process needs real support from the United States in continuing these negotiations (and) to make them succeed," he said, adding that the meeting earlier this month between Chairman Yasser Arafat and President Clinton at the White House was "very successful, very warm."

He maintained that the Palestinians have come a long way in making the peace process a success. "In behavior" and especially in amending the Palestinian charter, eliminating all the anti-Israel articles. He cited several instances where the peace process has been beneficial to Israel as well.

In reply to a question, he said that the new Palestinian charter, which has yet to be drafted, will reflect the peace accords which have been signed and the "mutual recognition" letters exchanged between Arafat and the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The peace process is at an important juncture, he explained. The United States has "a direct responsibility" to make it work since it is a major sponsor of the process that was launched in Madrid in 1991.

Dr Shaath said that there are two issues at stake with the process at present: compliance and the permanent status talks.

"No one has talked about Israeli compliance," he declared. "Israel has not fulfilled many of its contractual obligations under the peace accords signed so far." He charged that Israel still occupies Palestinian villages, including Hebron, which it should have left three months ago, and prevents "free passage" movement between Gaza and the West Bank as stipulated in the Oslo accords.

Moreover, he continued, Israel continues to hold several thousand Palestinian political prisoners, including some women prisoners who were supposed to be released under the Tabá agreement, had it not been for the intervention of Israeli President Ezer Weizmann.

He went on to describe the Israel shutdown of the borders following the recent bombings in Israeli cities as an "absolute, total suffocating siege." This has devastated the Palestinian economy, he charged, and echoed recent observations here that the Palestinian workers may not even find jobs in Israel when and if the borders are opened.

Turning to the issue of the permanent status talks, which were launched "ceremoniously and symbolically" on 6 May, as he put it, the minister observed that the peace process began without "the final outcome (being) clearly defined."

He said there was only one reference to it in the Oslo accords, namely that the final status negotiations are designed to implement UN resolutions 242 and 338.

The two guidelines of these resolutions, he added, stipulated the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, the evacuation of the territories occupied in 1967 and that a fair solution be found for the Palestinian refugees.

Otherwise, he continued, there should be no problem in settling these final issues if these resolutions were strictly implemented. But the peace accords, he went on, specified that the implementation of the settlement was left to "the parties negotiating the final status issues."

"That is why it is crucial that the United States play an important role in seeing these negotiations come to a fruitful end," he stressed.

At the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he spoke on May 24, Dr Shaath was reminded by a questioner that no one in the Labor Party suggested a return to the 1967 borders or a withdrawal from the Israeli settlements in the West Bank "was in the cards."

In reply, Dr Shaath underlined the "sanctity of resolutions 242 and 338" and reminded his audience that Israel, under the Likud Party of Menachem Begin, withdrew "from every inch of Egyptian territory" referring to the protected negotiations of the Israeli enclave at Tabá, now returned to Egypt.

Similarly, in Jordan the UN resolution was observed, he added, and "it will have to be respected in the negotiations with Syria."

He emphasized, "There is absolutely no reason why it should not be respected in the negotiations with the Palestinians."

But Dr Shaath said the question of territory is not a major issue except over Jerusalem, although he noted that, in accordance with one interpretation, there may be "minor changes in territory on both sides." But in the case of Jerusalem, he added, "it will have to be resolved creatively."

Australian author David Malouf ...The rediscoveries of the renaissance belong all to the world that comes out of Baghdad'

Editor's Note: David Malouf is one of the greatest contemporary writers. His novels seek to project the human psyche and touch upon universal themes shared by every man. Malouf was born in Brisbane. His father's family travelled to Australia in the 1880's from Zahle in Lebanon and his mother's family from London just before the first world war. At the age of 24, he left Australia and remained abroad for nearly 10 years teaching and travelling in Europe. His novel, *An Imaginary Life*, has been translated into Arabic. Last Wednesday it was announced in Ireland that Mr Malouf's novel *Remembering Babylon* won the richest international literary prize—the IMPAC Dublin Award. The Star's Munther Hamdan talked to Malouf in Amman about his literary experience. Excerpts follow:

generation. I was born in Australia and my father was born in Australia. My mother was not Lebanese but English. My Grand parents went to Australia in the 1880s. I was mostly given an Australian upbringing and education. But those things that belong to my background go very deep and they must be there somewhere.



David Malouf talking to The Star's Munther Hamdan

How do you see the role of the novel in creating a world culture, and do you believe in that?

As an author, what do your novels seek to project?

I write as an Australian and I think all writing begins first of all to be writing for the tribe. I write about the Australian experience not just the current one but what has happened in Australia over the last 100 years. It seems to me that often terrible things happen to people which need to be written about. A lot of history is rather terrible. In Australia there is the typicality of settling the country, the displacement of average people which (Australians) now feel guilty about and the two world wars in which many people have been killed.

If societies suffer in a certain kind of way, they will find it difficult to come to terms with this experience. One of the ways they can do that is through art. Fiction or painting can give these experiences the shape and allow people to go into the experience. This is seen as a healing process since one of the uses of art and literature is to allow that kind of healing to take place in society. I write about a lot of events in the history of Australia which are not peculiar to it. They are also about people's historical experiences anywhere which are not purely Australian. Through imagination, art is one way to heal.

Do you draw on your Arab ancestry when you are writing novels?

I would say no. But that may not be true. I do not think that the writer knows what he is deeply drawing on. He is drawing on whatever he is. I am sure I am drawing on some things which belong to my ancestry but I do not know which ones they are. I belong to the third

most stereotyped people in Australia and are treated in the most racist kind of way by the majority of Australians they are people of English origin.

If you said to most people if there is a long history of culture behind most Arabs, most of them would say no. And if you said to them how much of our culture we owe entirely to Arabs, they would say very little. Educated people know that there is Algebra and chemistry but most people do not know that. Yes, there is a stereotyping of Arabs in that way. When the Gulf war was on, what we wanted really to say is that Baghdad is not a city that belongs to another culture. It is a city that belongs to Arab culture. Much of what mattered to medieval Europe and to the rediscoveries of the renaissance belongs all to the world that comes out of Baghdad. Not many people know that. I know that not because I had an Arab background but because I am reasonably well educated.

There are a lot of people in Australia who have an Arab background. There are a lot of Lebanese, Egyptians, Iraqis and Palestinians. Australians at least do recognize the difference between these people.

They know the difference between Egyptians and Turks, that some are Arabs and some are not. Australians begin to be aware of subtle differences and that is a good thing.

Can you tell us about your recently translated novel into Arabic an "Imaginary Life"?

I have written this novel 20 years ago. It is my second novel and the first to be translated into Arabic. My latest book published is called *Remembering Babylon*. One of the reasons why it is useful to translate this work is that a lot of my books are set in Australia. The fact that it is Australian may make it difficult to translate. This book is set not in Australia but in classical times, and it is written in a language which is much specifically Australian. So, for that reason it is a very good book to begin with to introduce to a different language.

Your works have been translated into many languages. What is the secret of your success?

I don't think any writer knows that. One of the things is that these books are mostly rather passionate books which involve people's feelings. They are books about feelings we all share, and universal notions of possession and dispossession, violence or attempts to settle. They are books that are written very much from the body so they appeal to the senses in a way that allows people to enter into the experience not in an abstract way but in a very sensual kind of way. This makes people get inside the books.

I do not believe in a world culture. When people read, they enter completely into a world which they have never been in before. It is the world that each novel creates to represent a whole life.

Arrests escalate tension between Kabariti and Islamists

Continued from page 1

human rights.

The government have not presented any legal charges, no one was taken to court," the spokesman added. "The government claims that it is still in the investigation process stage."

In their meeting last week, the government and Islamists, failed to reduce the tension between them. On the contrary, the government refused to stop its arrests, insisting that it is still building up its case.

The Brotherhood points out that these arrests harm the image of the country, and are a threat to the stability and safety of the society.

"About 20 of the 40 people that were arrested are still in custody," said deputy Theib Abdallah, who heads the Lower House Public Liberties Committee. Dr Abdallah who broke away from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) recently, refused the claim that the arrests were related to Hamas support. "We all support Hamas as a national religious movement, but these arrests have nothing to do with that," Abdallah said.

Few days ago, the authorities arrested Muslim Brotherhood member, Mr Abdel Jalil Awawdeh, the director of Dar Al Arqam Islamic Schools. In addition, arrests were made in Amman, Russeifa and Zarqa. Till now, the government refused to release, Mr Waleed Tleekh, an engineer who is allegedly a Hamas supporter. Arrested last month, he is still under investigation. His wife is prevented from visiting him and sources at the Jordanian Engineers Association say that Tleekh's health is deteriorating.

Islamists are dismayed and believe that the government must take concerted actions. Observers argue that failure to do so will only worsen relations, weaken the moderates in the Islamic movement and strengthen the hand of the hardliners in the Islamic movement. They have not welcomed the Kabariti's government, as they believe that it is no different from the previous ones. Certainly this means confrontation, observers argue.

An Islamic source who preferred not to be identified, said that "The Muslim Brotherhood is losing its base in favor of other Islamic movements that are banned." The source explained that, the illegalized Islamic Liberation Party—calling for an Islamic Caliphate—is surviving only by the mostly young members who broke away from the Muslim Brotherhood.

However, Islamic moderates are holding extensive meetings to form a new party. The idea is being discussed by two Islamic Lower House deputies, Dr Abdallah and Ahmad Kasasbeh, that recently split from the IAF.

"The Islamic situation in Jordan demands a new formula, that could include all the different Islamic points of views, and not repress one opinion," Abdallah said. "It is the right time to establish this party. But it is still gathering momentum."

Dr Abdallah believes that the coming party will not be an alternative to the IAF, but will seek to cooperate with it. The deputy said the party will be officially announced "very soon."

A major buy-out in Al Aswaq

THE GENERAL Assembly of the Arab Media Investment Co., (AMI) endorsed in consensus the decision taken by the company's executive council to buy 891,000 shares of the Media Investment Co which owns Al Aswaq financial newspaper.

The stock bought constitute 99 percent of Al Aswaq's shares. The cost of each share is JD 1.750 fils. The assembly authorized the executive council to proceed with the sale.

The decision to buy came at the extraordinary meeting which was held last Tuesday at Jerusalem Hotel. It was attended by the headed of the AMI's executive council Dr Ali Al Suheimat and 28 shareholders who own 80 percent of the company's shares.

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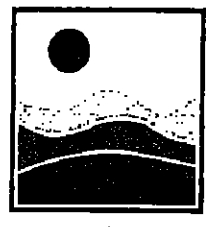
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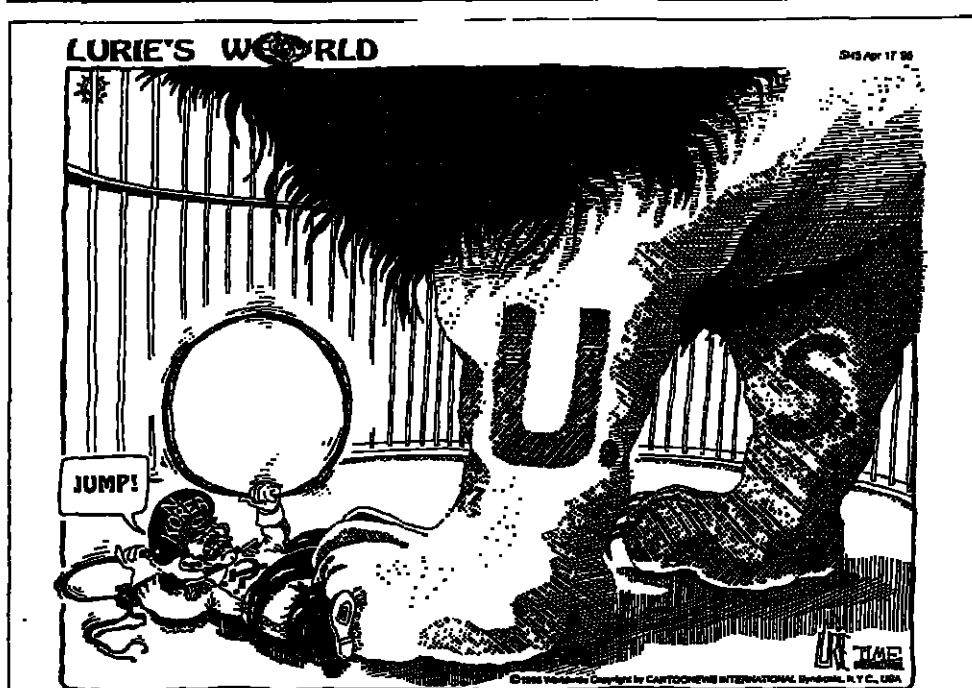
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Our Say...

Arabs are the losers

AS ISRAELIS went to the polls Wednesday, the world waited anxiously for the results which would determine the fate of the Middle East peace process. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who in the last few days has seen his lead over his main challenger, right wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, slip to few precious points, was right to pronounce the elections as the most important in Israel's 46-year history.

But while the Palestinians, the Arab world, the United States and indeed most of the world, were hoping for a Labor victory so that the five-year-old peace process would be saved, the fact that the Israeli society was divided, almost equally, over the issue, was an eye opener.

Regardless of who will emerge as the victor from this election, neither man can claim to have the majority of Israelis behind him. The two men, whose main difference is over bartering land for peace with the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese, they will not have a strong majority in the Knesset, and both will have to build shaky alliances with minor parties on both sides of the political spectrum.

A Peres win will not be a decisive one for the peace camp. It will not allow him a free hand in his negotiations with the Arab side. The issues of settlements, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Palestinian refugees and displaced persons will continue to challenge the peace process and prevent a just resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr Netanyahu too, will find it difficult to turn the clock back on Israel's agreements with the Palestinians. He will hesitate before damaging Israel's strategic relations with the United States, which has invested in maintaining the peace process. Like Mr Peres, Mr Netanyahu will have to make adjustments to his electoral platform and offer some compromises.

In both cases, Israel will not find it easy to heal the wounds, close ranks and control emotions. Ever since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli society has been sucked into a cycle of violence, radicalism, uncertainty and insecurity. This week's elections will not change the political map much. In fact, there is danger that the elections will either cement the status quo or further polarize the Israeli public.

The Arabs, who have pinned their hopes on Mr Peres, stand to lose no matter who wins. The fact that he has maintained the blockade against Palestinian territories and sanctioned the blitz against Lebanon means that in the final analysis his calculations are dictated by internal Israeli politics more than anything else. There is little doubt that this fact will remain the same even if Mr Peres remains at the helm.

It would be foolish to expect Mr Peres to work diligently for Arab aspirations and ambitions when the Arabs are divided amongst themselves and continue to bicker over most common issues. Perhaps a Netanyahu victory, or the Netanyahu specter, will help sober them up and they would then start looking for solutions within themselves.



● Russian leader Boris Yeltsin embraces the Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev on the eve of a signing agreement to end the war between two sides.

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Pelletreau affirms US policy in Middle East

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a lecture on peace in the Middle East, given by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Robert Pelletreau. The lecture was delivered to CENTCOM, the Annual Southwest Asia Symposium in Tampa, Florida. Excerpts follow:

Some in the region diagnose Saddam Hussein's regime, as "dead and still flying" and it is true that the Iraqi armed forces are less imposing today than they were in 1990. But we who bear the responsibility for ensuring security and stability in the Gulf cannot afford to be complacent. Saddam has shown on too many occasions his ruthless unpredictability. I've taken a special interest in the Central Command and its predecessor, the Rapid Deployment Force, since their creation after the traumatic events of 1979: the fall of the Shah and taking of American hostages in Iran; the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and President Carter's declaration of the Gulf as an area of vital US interest. Returning from Bahrain to my first tour in OSD, I participated in our early access negotiations with Oman, Egypt, Somalia and Kenya. We have come a long way since those early days.

Close political-military coordination is uniquely important in the Middle East, where security issues have a high profile. There are few if any areas of the world that combine such strategic importance to the United States with such chronic instability. While remarkable progress has been made toward achieving Arab-Israeli peace, serious obstacles remain to be overcome. We must contend with proliferation threats, border disputes, the problems of domestic instability and economic underdevelopment, human-rights problems, to say nothing of the challenges of dealing with terrorism, extremism, and fanaticism. Instability in the Middle East carries profound dangers. It can threaten the security of close friends and partners such as Israel and Egypt and the GCC states. It can threaten our NATO partners in Europe. It can threaten our ability to protect vital oil supplies from the Gulf. It can bring new outbreaks of terrorism to our shores. And it can fuel a race to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

With so many of our interests at stake, the United States cannot remain indifferent to this turbulent sector of the globe. Tempting as it is, we do not have the option of picking up our marbles and going home. We have a major interest not just in preventing the outbreak of conflict and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes, but also in changing the conduct and limiting the means of potential war-makers, and in isolating extremists who foment destabilization and conflict. This can only be achieved through active and sustained political engagement, backed by American military power, and through support from our friends and allies.

Securing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors remains a cornerstone of our overall foreign policy. A successful peace process will enhance regional stability, remove a rallying point for fanaticism, and enhance prospects for political and economic development. The United States is engaged on several fronts to advance peace negotiations, an engagement which in turn helps achieve our other objectives in the Middle East. These include preserving Israel's security and well-being; maintaining security arrangements to preserve stability in its resources; combating terrorism and weapons proliferation; assisting US business, and promoting political and economic reform.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, the United States has lent its full support to Israel and Arab partners for peace as they take courageous measures to chart a new course for the Middle East.

Our support has been essential because the forces of extremism and terror in the Middle East have worked hard to discredit the peacemakers and undermine their achievements. Particularly in the past few months, the peace process has been subject to very serious challenges—first the suicide bombings in Israel, then the confrontation in southern Lebanon and northern Israel.

■ Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Peres and Chairman Arafat were in Washington for separate meetings with President Clinton and Administration officials. In their discussions at the White House and with Secretary Christopher, both parties reaffirmed their determination to start the permanent-status negotiations on time according to the calendar set forth in the 1993 Declaration of Principles.

Despite high decibel levels at the UN and in the regional press, they did just that, as in similar fashion, the Palestinians did not allow the fighting in South Lebanon to divert them from convening the Palestine National Council in Gaza and taking action to revoke the old charter provisions calling for Israel's destruction. The initial round began in Taba, Egypt, on 5 May. We will undoubtedly play a facilitative role as those talks unfold over the months and most likely several years ahead.

Meanwhile, we will continue to look for other ways to support the peacemakers as they take risks for peace. During Prime Minister Peres' visit to the United States, we signed a counterterrorism agreement and an agreement to expand cooperation on theater missile defense.

■ Promoting comprehensive peace requires the United States to stand beside Arab states as well as Israel as they take risks for peace. President Clinton committed the United States to support Jordan when King Hussein defied the predictions of many observers and took bold steps toward peace without waiting for others in the region. We worked quietly with Israel and Jordan for more than a year leading up to the signing of their peace treaty in 1994 to identify potential areas of economic cooperation, many of which are now being pursued. And with the support of Congress, we have relieved Jordan of its bilateral debt to the US and undertaken to help

Jordan meet its legitimate defense requirements through the provision of a squadron of F-16s.

Already we see evidence of the goodwill and cooperation engendered by Jordan's decision for peace. Jordan and Israel are moving toward a warm peace on many levels. Israeli and Jordanian military officers have hosted one another. They have flown a joint humanitarian aid mission to Bosnia and have worked together to defuse landmines along their common border. For our part, we applaud King Hussein's clear move away from the dictatorial regime in Baghdad and to rebuild Jordan's traditional relations with the GCC. Jordan's vigorous enforcement of UN sanctions, and its decision to host the temporary deployment of the Airpower Expeditionary Force. This force is providing additional land-based air forces to augment regional deterrence while affording Jordan and the US Air Force increased joint training.

■ US strategic cooperation with Jordan is strengthening regional stability and expanding on the solid foundation of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and close US-Egyptian military ties which have held firm for more than 17 years. Egypt plays an important stabilizing role in the region, supporting our peace process objectives and providing essential support for the US military presence. A decade of US-backed military modernization, coupled with strong Egyptian leadership, has helped build a modern force in Egypt capable of working effectively with US forces in coalition warfare. Egypt galvanized the Arab coalition during the Gulf War and constituted the second largest foreign force to our own in the campaign to liberate Kuwait. And when Iraq threatened Kuwait again in October 1994, Egypt's expeditious approval for deployment of a carrier battle group through the Suez Canal sent a critical signal to the Baghdad regime.

We continue to rely on Egypt for quick transit of military assets to and from the Gulf region. The US routinely conducts 500 military overflights each month. Our military assistance also facilitates Egypt's contributions to international peacekeeping operations. At last count, Egypt was involved in five different peacekeeping operations. The Foreign Minister of a Gulf country said to me recently, "You must continue to assist Egypt. For us, Egypt is the High Dam."

We see the economic underpinnings of peace agreements as vital to their success. In addition to our bilateral efforts, we have put a lot of energy into the economic summit process, which will convene for the third time this coming Fall in Cairo. The two previous regional economic summits in Casablanca and Amman were instrumental in galvanizing regional economic cooperation and showcasing new commercial opportunities opened up by the peace process. They have stimulated a new level of intra-regional economic activity and contact, as well as a progressive dismantling of the barriers to trade on the Arab-Israeli level, the Arab-Arab level, and also the global level.

Let me turn to our policy toward the Gulf region. A key national-security concern is to protect our friends and vital interests in the Gulf against the twin dangers of hegemony and regional conflict. The chief threats today come from Iraq and Iran. Powerful in regional terms, the dictatorship in Iraq and the theocracy in Iran openly declare their enmity toward the United States, blatantly disregard international norms of behavior, and pose a direct threat to their neighbors. The US commitment to protect the Gulf from domination by a hostile power is not new: a series of Presidents from both parties have expressed this commitment in private discussions with leaders of the area and in public declarations.

■ Our policy on Iraq remains firm: Iraq must fulfill all obligations established under UN Security Council resolutions passed after the invasion. No relaxation of the sanctions will be possible until Iraq complies fully. There is solid allied support for this position; the Security Council last week unanimously agreed for the 31st time to maintain sanctions without modification. As the most recent report submitted by UNSCOM Chairman Ekeus lays out, Iraq continues to hide evidence of past weapons programs and is continuing clandestine efforts to develop missiles and other frightening weapons. It has not yet returned stolen Kuwaiti military equipment or complied with one of the most universally accepted rules of warfare, a good faith effort to account for prisoners and MIA's when the fighting is over.

■ Iran represents a different—and in some ways more complex—challenge. There are no UN sanctions on Iran, and there are significant differences between the United States and its allies over how to



Pelletreau

deal with Iran. We have deep objections to several of Iran's policies, including its support for terrorism, pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, support for Hamas and other violent groups seeking to derail the peace process, subversion of other governments, and a human rights record which is deservedly condemned by the international community. None of these policies is required by Islamic teachings. President Clinton's decision one year ago to impose a trade and investment embargo against Iran affirmed both the depth of US feeling about Iran's conduct and our willingness to assume leadership of a stronger international effort to confront the Iranian challenge.

We have called on all major industrial states to join the United States in denying Iran sophisticated armaments, nuclear technology, and preferential economic treatment. Although European governments have not as yet seen fit to join us in a full embargo of Iran, no government or international financial institution is providing Iran with any official aid. Our allies have substantially reduced the pace and scope of new loans and investment guarantees.

On balance, however, our efforts to impose a severe economic cost on Iran for pursuing objectionable policies have so far elicited a disappointing and lukewarm response from our allies, despite our urging and ongoing discussions with them. Some of our closest allies, in the hope of commercial reward, have been tolerant of Iran's outlaw-behavior. We are, therefore, working with Congress to devise more thorough-going and effective measures to step up international pressure on Iran.

At the same time, we see no viable opposition movement in Iran at this time. We, therefore, remain willing to enter an authorized and above-board dialogue with Iran's leadership and we will welcome better relations with Iran once it abandons its unacceptable policies and begins to act as a peaceful and responsible neighbor in the region and responsible member of the international community.

US efforts to enhance the military strength of the six states of the GCC are an important complement to our political efforts to contain the threat from Iran and Iraq. Under CENTCOM's determined leadership, the United States has made steady progress in improving security cooperation with these states since Desert Storm. We have a three-tier approach. First, we help each Gulf state strengthen its individual defense forces through our defense sales and training programs. Second, we encourage regional defense cooperation among the Gulf states through the GCC's collective security arrangements. The GCC's recent exercises in Kuwait and in the seas off Oman mark an important step forward, although there is quite a long way to go in this area. The recent resolution of the Saudi-Qatari border dispute should improve the atmosphere.

I believe there is a general understanding that the US cannot and does not aim to impose a "pax Americana" on the Gulf. Our own anti-imperialist tradition prevents it, as does the strong anticolonial sentiment of the area's citizens. We may be the dominant outside power, but we must operate within a unique—and complicated—political framework. While our friendship and strength are welcome, area governments resist permanent bases, iron-clad treaty arrangements, and grand blueprints for NATO-like structures. The frustrating costs in efficiency and capability of this still-ado-hoc security structure means that we and Gulf governments must continue the process of consultation and adjustment in order to construct and maintain a credible deterrent against evolving threats.

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Jambek

Oil for food

WITH GREAT relief, we witness this small improvement in relations between Iraq and the UN as the oil-for-food deal is finally signed. It is hoped that this first step will provide the Iraqi people with the essential breathing space, and restore some of their dignity robbed by a series of misfortunes and mistakes.

When one talks about the Iraqi people, we mean the whole country rather than one segment of the population. It is most important that the whole of Iraq benefits from this small UN mercy, in as much as the whole of Iraq had to suffer from the UN wrath.

At the end of the day, victories will be measured by the relief provided to the sick, hungry and less fortunate. All segments of the Iraqi population are in the same circumstances, and unless there is a national accord between all, that safeguards the geographical unity of the country, there will always be winners as well as losers.

It is still premature to start predicting events, for the sanctions will continuously be reviewed regularly and more importantly, the US elections are literally around the corner. So long as Mr Bob Dole is not threatening the prospects of the re-election of President Clinton, we can assume a comparative safety, in the fact that there will not be a military action against Iraq. So far, events are indicating progress, but one never knows the exact truth behind the oil-for-food deal.

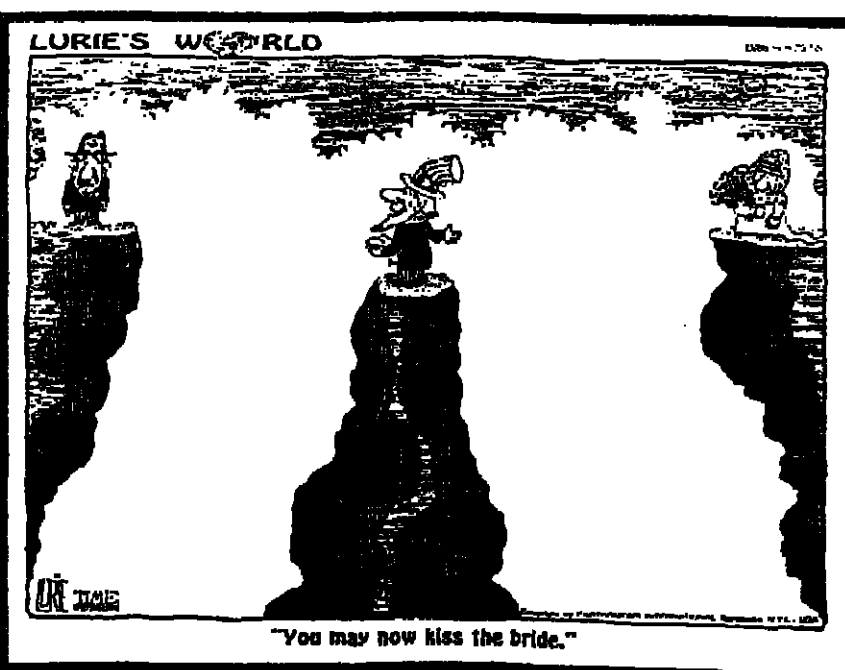
As for the effects of this development, regionally, we can read plenty of rhetoric in all sorts of local, regional and international publications. Notwithstanding the fact that Jordan as a responsible member of the UN, and has conformed to the UN embargo regulations, all sorts of theories emerged regarding the negative effects on the Jordanian economy. Some even went as far as to suggest that Iraq will seek vengeance because of Jordan's position.

The real point which was clearly missed, is the fact that Jordan has always spoken against oppression and violations of human rights regardless of the nature of the regimes in the area. When Jordan stood very clearly for the unity of Iraq, and alleviating the suffering imposed on the Iraqi people, all shades of politics, internally and externally accused Jordan of harboring intentions against a fraternal country.

When we spoke of the human dimension of the Iraqi tragedy, our accusers were calculating the same tragedy in terms of monetary value, and trade benefits. When we host the largest Iraqi refugee community in the whole region, and suffer the economic burdens, others are thinking of hosting pipelines and economic zones. What is it that Jordan has done to feed the imagination of the fictitious script writers? Have we not been always for Iraq and the Iraqi people? Or is it that flagellation and self-flagellation are far too ingrained in the character of Jordanians?

Any rapprochement between our brothers, or regional neighbors is welcomed by Jordan. For good neighborliness can only promote trust and confidence in Middle Eastern political and economic affairs. There is no need to exaggerate the nature of relations between Iraq and Turkey, as well as Iraq and Syria. For Jordan and Iraq still hold excellent relations in as much as expected between two fraternal Islamic and Arab countries.

This phobia which has been developing recently, as a result of the improvement of relations between the countries in the region, emanates from the same narrow-minded Zero Sum Game. We must not keep thinking in terms of winners and losers, but rather in terms of "we all win," or "we all lose."



"You may now kiss the bride."

Business scene

The meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian High Committee concentrated on the improvement of relations in the tourism, transport and labor fields between the two countries. Customs on commodities between Jordan and Egypt have decreased at rates varying from 30-50%. The balance of trade between the two countries reached JD 41.2 million last year compared to JD 35.8 in 1994. The balance is in Egypt's favor that is estimated at JD 23.2 million last year and JD 23.8 in 1994.

The Amman Financial Market held its annual meeting last week during which it defined the reason for the decrease in the trading volume on the AFM. The trading volume shrunk noticeably since the second half of 1993 and continued a downward trend in the last two years. The trading volume in both the organized and parallel markets in 1995 amounted to JD 418.9 million compared to JD 495 million in 1994, that is a drop of 15.4%. The share price index weighted by market capitalization was calculated by the market at a closing price of 159.2 in 1995. This is compared to the closing price of 143.6 in 1994, a 10.8% increase. The "unweighted" price index decreased in 1995 by 11.4%.

The Sahab Industrial Estate, which was started 14 years ago, has presently 336 industrial companies at more than JD 1 billion in investments. On the other hand, the Al Hassan Industrial Estate has 54 industrial companies at JD 60 million in investments. It is hoped by the year 2000 many more industrial estates will be set up through out the Kingdom.

The industrial sector is highly dynamic in the economy of Jordan. Since 1994 its productivity has increased by more than JD 1,700 and contributes effectively to the Gross National Income. The industrial sector employs more than 100,000 people in the national economy.

The Industrial Engineering Co., Ltd made a profit of JD 115.9 thousand for 1995. This is a 41 percent increase over 1994. Company sales also increased by 37% over 1994. Company exports were JD 1,271 million, a 26% over 1994.

Foreign Exchange Wednesday, 29 MAY		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.0694	1.0747
DM	0.4579	0.4602
FF	0.5582	0.5610
FRF	0.1355	0.1362
YEN	0.6532	0.6565
DM	0.4094	0.4114
DM	0.0454	0.0456

Conference discusses Israel's role in Jordanian and regional development

By Mohammad Adawiya
Special to The Star

PARTICIPANTS AT a conference on the future of the Jordanian economy placed much of their attention on Israel's role in regional development. While some argued that economic integration is a likely option, others argued that Israel's role would most likely be a minimal one with little impact on the Jordanian economy. Despite these varying opinions, however, it was evident that Israel was on the minds of many people.

The conference, entitled "The Jordanian Economy within its Regional and International Frame-

work: A Future Look" focused on the Jordanian economy against a backdrop of regional developments. As Mr. Hani Hourani, chairman of the preparatory committee said, the conference was organized "to discuss the challenges to the economy of Jordan and the chances for its development and growth within its regional framework."

The event, co-sponsored by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center, Philadelphia University, and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, covered topics such as water and agriculture, banking, and tourism. Participants however, which represented the US, Europe, and Jordan, focused much of their attention on Israel's

impact and role on these topics.

"Israel focuses more on Europe and America than on the Arab economies," Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, a participant at the conference stated. Dr. Jabbar, presenter of a working paper on the likely scenarios for the formation of a regional economic block, believed that Israel is "selective with whom they trade" and for thus may elect to stay away from the Arab economies.

Not everyone at the four day gathering, which ended yesterday, shared this view however. On the last day of the conference, a working paper presented by Dr. Adel Zagha argued of the inevitability that the Jordanian and Israeli econ-

omies, along with that of Palestine, will merge. This view was not shared by Dr. Fahed Al Fanek, a discussant of Dr. Zagha's paper.

"I don't think it will go in that direction," Dr. Fanek said. Israel, he believes is more focused on "politics and security [and] not the market." Dr. Fanek, a Jordanian economist, is also quick to point out, that it may not be to Jordan's interest in achieving economic integration with Israel. "Jordan is not ready," Dr. A. Fanek simply stated. Explaining that Jordan delayed the recently signed trade agreement with Israel due to differing views on trade liberalization between the two countries, Dr. Fanek believes that Jordan would only stand to lose from any such

free trade agreements. "Israel is partners with the European Union and American," he said. Being part of that partnership "means we will compete with them on an equal footing," a thought which Dr. Fanek does not relish. Israel on the other hand would have much to gain according to him. The protective nature of Jordan's economy coming in the form of such things as high custom charges, will allow Israel to dominate the Jordanian economy market virtually unhindered.

With regards to economic relations with the Palestinians, Dr. Fanek believes that "this is a problem." Citing the lack of Palestinian sovereignty, Dr. Fanek does not think that decisions can be made and perhaps more importantly, implemented. "We would be deceiving ourselves," he says. In regards to the possible benefits for both sides, Dr. Fanek simply said, "we can give but we can't take."

Another topic receiving considerable attention at the conference was that of privatization in the Jordanian economy. Many speakers at the conference advocated privatization as a solution to the country's future economic challenges. Professor Klaus Kisker, however, cautioned participants of the possible dangers inherent in privatization. He pointed out that people need to "distinguish" between liberalization and privatization; two very different concepts which he believes are often lumped together.

Dr. Kisker explained that whereas liberalization refers to a deregulation process in the economy, privatization addresses issues concerning modes of production. He noted that a country may theoretically have a large private sector for example, but be highly regulated. The opposite may also be true. Admitting his unfamiliarity with details of the Jordanian economy, the professor at the Institute for Commercial Policy in Berlin, who also presented a paper at the conference entitled "Regional Development and the Crisis of the World Economy," simply pointed out that "from a theoretical point of view, be careful with privatization."

An Economic Saudi delegation visits Jordan

AMMAN (Star)—AN ECONOMIC Saudi delegation arrived in Amman last week to meet with Jordanian businessmen in the public and private sector. The delegation, headed by chairman of the Federation of Commercial-Industrial Chambers in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abd Al Rahman Al Jureisy are discussing the possibilities of developing economic relations between the two countries.

The delegates were received by Mr. Haidar Murad, the chairman of Jordan's Federation of the Chambers of Commerce. He emphasized the importance of the visit and said it will help the private sectors in both countries to gain momentum. He added that Jordan is looking forward to increasing the size of investment and external trade between the two countries which amounts to JD 162 million.

The delegation consists of 65 businessmen from the biggest industrial, agricultural, commercial and tourist sectors. They are discussing with their Jordanian counterparts ways of establishing a private Saudi-Jordanian holding company.

Al Jureisy said the economic laws in Jordan and the amendment of these



HM King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan with Saudi delegation at Industrial expo

laws contribute to attracting businessmen to carry out projects and invest in Jordan. He added that trade exchange between the two countries should be

enhanced as Saudi Arabia is considered a wide market for Jordanian exports of high quality and suitable prices.

Indian businessmen seek to expand cooperation with local counterparts

By Harry Pullens
Special to The Star

A HIGH-level business delegation from India representing the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), set up by the Indian Government, today, Thursday ends its three-day visit to Jordan. The 25-member delegation, headed by Mr. P. S. Patel, the chairman of VIPOR Chemicals, includes leading Indian manufacturers and exporters of drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical disposables, organic and inorganic chemicals as well as dyes and dye intermediates.

As part of the visit, the Embassy of India in Amman organized a Buyer-Seller Meet at Hotel Forte Grand, which provided an opportunity to the delegation to establish business contacts with their Jordanian counterparts.

The Indian ambassador in Amman, Mr. Gajanan Wakankar who said that the delegation are representing 18 different companies, explained that the aim of the visit is to increase trade in specific areas such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals and agro-chemicals.

The visit coincides with the Jordan International Industrial Exhibition organized by the

Amman Chamber of Industry at Amman International Fair Premises at Marj Al-Hammam. Mr. Patel explained that the delegates are here to "clear any clouds or obstacles that may hamper business deals."

Mr. Sundeeb Aurora, the director of Pharmed Chemicals believes that there is a wide possibility for collaboration with their Jordanian counterparts. He explained that there is a need for complementary business survey of both countries and specification checks to initiate more business deals. "You can't walk into a country and sign business agreements," he said.

The group met with the Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Mr. Khalid Abu Hassan before visiting the industrial exhibition.

The delegation's visit to the fair provided an opportunity to the delegation to get acquainted with the diversity of Jordanian manufacturers and the Kingdom's achievements in the industrial sphere for the last 50 years of independence.

The delegation which met many Jordanian businessmen, underlined the need for cooperation and described the Jordanian experience in pharmaceuticals as impressive. Dr. Abdel Rahim Jallad, the general manager of Munir Sukhtian Co., in

Amman, which is an agent to over 200 international companies, described the meeting with the Indian delegation as "very productive."

The visit to Jordan is part of CHEMEXCIL's tour to Egypt, Syria and Iran. The members of the delegation held talks

Turkish exhibit proves highly successful

THE FOUR-day Second Turkish products exhibition which ends today, Thursday aims to boost commercial and industrial cooperation between Turkey and Jordan, says Mr. Turgay Demir, the commercial councillor at the Turkish Embassy, in Amman. Turkey '96, patronized by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Ali Abu Ragheb, is a major exposition of Turkish products. On display are products of 21 firms representing industrial sectors in Turkey. These include cars and spareparts, aluminium, iron and steel, building materials, pharmaceutical raw materials, cleaning equipment, cosmetics, electrical and electronics products, packaging material, foodstuff manufacturing machinery.

The councillor said that over 40 Turkish companies took part in the first exhibition held last year. However, he explained that this year's exhibit, with representation from only 20 companies is more powerful and diverse. A one-day seminar titled "Turkish-Jordanian Economic Trade relations and their future" was held alongside the exhibit. It was attended by the visiting Turkish, business delegation, members from the Jordanian Businessmen Association and the Federation of Jordanian Chamber of Commerce.

The delegation also met with government officials and businessmen.

Industrial expo displays Jordanian products for export

By Eyad Ammari
Special to the Star

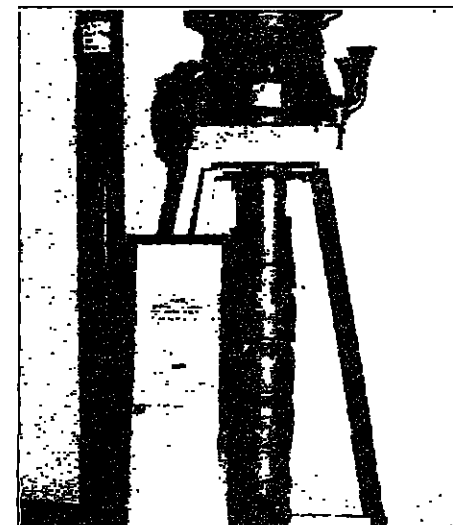
IN AN ATTEMPT to promote exports, and regionalize Jordanian industries, the Amman Chamber of Industry organized the Jordan Industrial Exhibition. About 165 companies and 15 delegates from Arab states are participating in the event. The exhibition seeks to facilitate Jordanian industries to Gulf markets.

Under the patronage of HM King Hussein, the industrial exhibition was opened by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti last Sunday. Also attending was Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb. The companies displaying their products can be divided into three groups. Industrial products had a large share of the exhibition. Firms presenting boiler burners, batteries, chemicals, cables, plastic molding and carbonates were among the most competitive trying to sell their products to Arab countries through their local agents.

Commodities producers had a large presence as well. Detergents, health and medical accessories, cosmetics, furniture, paper, stationary, and upholstery firms publicizing their products to gain the confidence of foreign markets. The third are the food producers, such as canned foodstuffs, crackers, ice-cream and dairy products.

The exhibition lasts till Sunday, 2 June, which should give interested parties enough time to conduct business with the Arab delegates. Several firms' representatives told The Star that they are hopeful of selling their products "but hardly any deals have been negotiated yet."

Some of the industrial products are leaders



Deep Well Vertical Turbine pump

in the Middle East. These include the Arab Pump Manufacturing Co. which manufactures deep well vertical turbine pumps and the smallest submerged pump ever produced in the region. Another company is the Jordan Cable Co., which produces up to 30 mm electric three phase cables. They can carry enough power to light an entire area like Abdoun. Another is the Jordan Carbonate Co. which has two plants in Jordan, one in Saudi Arabia, one in Syria and another in Egypt. Their production competes with the UK, although the latter is renowned for the quality of their carbonates.

MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
↑ %		↑ %		↑ %		↑ %	
+ Nine		+ JIMCO + Jerusalem Insurance + Intermediate Petro- Chemicals		+ Peabody Paper Converting + National Plaste + Exportates Investment Holding		+ Industry Development Bank + United Engineering + National Cable	
↓ %		↓ %		↓ %		↓ %	
+ None		+ United Investment Bank + Int'l Chemical Industry + National Slaughter House		+ Business Bank + Kavaler Investment + United Investment Bank		+ Amman Investment Bank + Jordan Sulpho Chemical + Arab Pharm Center	
↓ %		↓ %		↓ %		↓ %	
General Price Pointer		146,980		147,850		146,690	
Trade Volume		861251		1334917		712887	
Stock Volume		717511		978019		544985	
Highest Traded Stocks		126,825 + Arab Bank		166,175 + International Clearnet		75,941	

Red Flag flies high in the face of capitalism

Japanese style socialism

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

TOKYO—The Shibuyaku area is an oddity, it does not smell of capitalism, nor of proletarianism. However, communism does a sharp smell there, for the headquarters of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) is located in the very heart of the area.

Amidst the economic riches and splendour, what is the role

of the Communist Party in Japan? Moreover, how does it seek to build a proletarian movement in a high tech society?

Most of the communists parties have been head over heels to change their names, however, the JCP has remained adamant and the name Japanese Communist Party remains riding high.

The bases of communism starts in a place where capitalism increases its exploitation," said Mr. Tetsuzo Fuwa, the Presidium Chairman of the JCP and deputy in the House of Representatives.

The JCP is one of the five major parties in Japan. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leads a coalition government made up of members from the Democratic Socialist Party and New Frontiers. The conservative New Frontiers is the official opposition. The communists have a real presence in the Japanese political system. They are quietly digging their roots deeply in Japan.

The JCP received 10 percent of the votes in the 1995 elections to the Diet. That means 3.87 million

voted communist. But, their combined total in both houses of Parliament was only 29 seats.

However, in the 1993 municipal elections the JCP was first among the other political parties. It won 3989 members.

A political science professor in the University of Tokai said that this was a shock to Japanese politicians. Dr. Kenzo Uchida argued that the municipal elections is a sign that ordinary people have started to become cynical of the Japanese political establishment.

The results of the municipal elections "proved that the JCP grass roots are very much in contact with the people and holds their interests," Mr. Fuwa said.

World War II under the twin motto of "The people are master of the country" and "All people are equal."

The party's 71-year history is woven in one thread of struggle, from opposing Japan's war of aggression and fighting for the establishment of a people's sovereignty, to the defence of democracy.

Today, the party has branches all over the country. It has strong but flexible internal system that allows every three members to open a branch in their area.

The non Marxist-leninist, non Maoist party believe in unadulterated pure scientific socialism. "We do not import a system to fit our society into it," Fuwa explained. "Scientific socialism is a science. We look at the future of the world's movements and in Japan's from our own eyes and based on science."

Although in the post-Soviet Union, top secret documents released by the Kremlin stated that they financed most com-

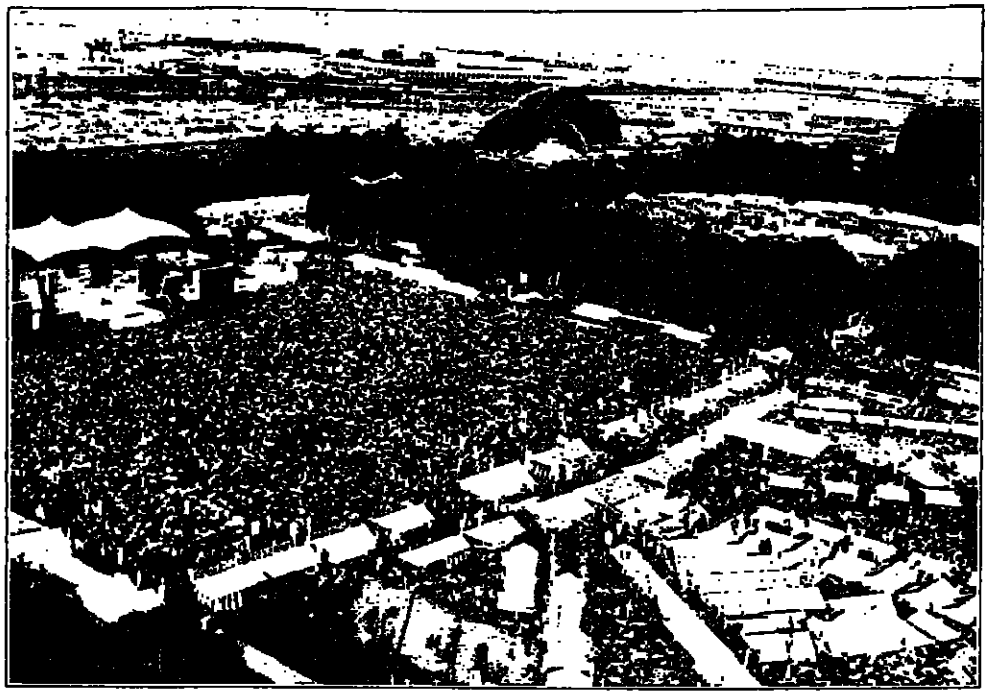
munist parties in the world, the documents stated that the JCP have never received any external finance.

"We fought against the hegemony of the ex-USSR and China. They want to support and rule, and we refused," Fuwa said. "The Chinese wanted us to carry guns and fight. They told us that there is no other way for the Japanese people to be successful. Of course we reject this."

The JCP stressed that the collapse of the Soviet bloc does not mean the collapse of socialism but only of the Stalin-Brezhnev-type political and economic system. Party ideologues see such a system as a deviation from the principles of scientific socialism.

Throughout the industrialized countries, business sectors play an essential role in decisions making. Japan is part of the world economy, and the strong business sector in the country is no different to the ones elsewhere.

The LDP who is led by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, a leading political party with strong business interests, is accused by the JCP of "protecting big business interests and US bases in Japan, saying



Communist party rallies: Is this the future for Japanese politics?

world." The JCP is fighting to "defeat politics that serves the interest of big capital and gives priority to the arms build-up," said Fuwa.

The JCP is calling on the government to intervene in the economy, and protect the people.

"Using this kind of intervention, a balance can be struck between the protection of people's interests and successful management."

that these provide protection to the [unarmed] Japan from any external threat.

The JCP, however, is calling for the abrogation of the military alliance and the withdrawal of American bases. "We aim to break free from the Japan-US military alliance and seek a truly independent, nuclear-free, non-aligned and neutral Japan," Fuwa said.

Akahaia (Red Flag), the organ paper of the JCP, is also widely read, having a circulation of 2,500,000. According to JCP sources party members are

estimated at 300,000.

But what will happen if the JCP comes to power? "We will start with changing the status quo, put an end to contradiction between the people, and with the approval of the people. This of course will be through a step by step process," Fuwa said.

The JCP aims at economic reform, and to put big business under democratic control.

But "if we come to power, we will not nationalize the private sector or big business," Fuwa said.



Fuwa calls for a democratic revolution

By Dean E. Murphy
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

European ex-Communists are back but aren't looking backward

WARSAW, POLAND—When the former Communists won parliamentary elections here more than two years ago, a giddy Jerzy Urban appeared at party headquarters with a gigantic bottle of champagne.

The ubiquitous spokesman for Poland's last authoritarian regime was feeling so self-satisfied that he even posed for photographers with his tongue sticking out.

But embarrassed leaders of the triumphant Democratic Left Alliance never popped the cork with Urban, who publishes an acerbic political weekly that often mocks Poland's transformation. And when former Communist Aleksander Kwasniewski won the Polish presidency last year, Urban was not on hand.

"I apologize to all those—and some of them are here in this room—who suffered injustice and misdeeds from the authorities and the system before 1989," Kwasniewski told Polish lawmakers, publicly proclaiming his revamped party's break with the past.

Former Communists are back in Poland and across Central and Eastern Europe, but old-style communism is not.

As the world anxiously awaits the outcome of next month's presidential election in Russia—where some fear a victory by Communist Party leader Gennady A. Zyuganov would threaten democratic and market reforms there—analysts say resurgent ex-Communists elsewhere in the region have little in common with their backward-looking Moscow brethren.

If Communists turn back the clock in Russia, the analysts say, do not expect Moscow's erstwhile vassals in the former Eastern Bloc to do the same thing. Enthusiasm for democracy varies greatly from country to country, and some former Communists remain as corrupt and authoritarian as ever.

But there is no groundswell of support for a return to the socialist way of yore, particularly one dominated by Moscow.

Indeed, Eastern Europeans of

most political leanings view the Communist resurgence in Moscow—and its preoccupation with Russia's lost empire—with more consternation than excitement.

While communism was home-grown in Russia, it was an instrument of imperialism elsewhere.

"Things may be bad here but not as bad as before 1989," said a Western diplomat in Slovakia, which has one of the poorest records of democratic reform in Central Europe and a governing elite with strong ties to the Communist-era *nomenklatura*. "The emphasis remains on the West and getting Western capital."

With a few exceptions, such as the former Soviet republic of Belarus, which recently tightened its association with Moscow, the new breed of former Communists among Russia's neighbors owe nothing to Moscow and have no allegiance to the ideology of old.

"The specter of communism," made famous by Karl Marx in the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848, is not haunting Europe again, even though only four countries in the region—Russia, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Latvia—have governments with no links to the Communist past.

Instead, many of the former Communists are recasting themselves as social democrats, a left-wing alternative to socialism that is popular in Western European democracies and was actually derided by Marx.

Pragmatic, reformist and experienced in governing, the new social democrats of the east have won voters by promising to soften the blow of capitalism without returning to traditional socialism.

Even the most moribund reformers with questionable social democratic credentials, such as those in Romania, are pushing for entry into the European Union and NATO, not a reassembling of pre-1989 alliances, as has been advocated by

Communists in Moscow.

"People want compromise and pragmatic leaders," Kwasniewski said in an interview. "The new system has not solved people's problems. But only a very small part of society is nostalgic."

How to find compromise without undoing democratic reforms, undermining the economy and scaring off Western investors has become the mainstay of political debate among former Communists in the region.

The Hungarian Socialist Party, successor to the Communists, has aggressively set out to dismantle the country's bloated social-welfare system, but the controversial effort has divided the party and angered its traditional working-class supporters.

In Bulgaria, a fiercely anti-Communist president and a parliament dominated by former Communists have been locked in a bitter dispute over the pace

of reforms.

President Zhelyu Zhelev says the Bulgarian Socialist Party is trying to smother private enterprise, while Prime Minister Zhan Videnov accuses Zhelev of protecting an "unscrupulous minority of racketeers" who have profited from the changes.

"In the end (of the 1980s), communism was already falling apart, and its main aim had become simply to have power," Polish historian Jerzy Holzer said. "Those Communists who later came to lead post-Communist parties were people without ideology. They were opportunists and pragmatists, and in that sense they were able to adjust to the new political situation."

"Die-hard Communists who resisted the reform wave, by contrast, have been relegated to the political ash heap."

In the Czech Republic, for example, where national elections will be held in two weeks,

the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia is expected to collect just 10 percent of the vote, while a hard-line splinter group, the Party of Czechoslovak Communists, doesn't even register in opinion polls.

The Czech Social Democratic Party, meanwhile, is showing large gains against the right-wing ruling party of Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus. The social democrats, who trace their roots to the 19th century, were absorbed by the Communist Party in 1948 but separated again after 1989.

"Russia is really the only country where Communists are openly Communist and proud of their heritage," said Juri Luik, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Central European (Communists) are ready to play in the new playground, but Russian Communists say they are ready to change the rules of the game."

Who's who in translation currently available

A NEW reference source, the *International Who's Who in Translation and Terminology*, was published last year.

This publication, prepared over the past three years, is a collaborative venture by two international organizations from the public sector, the Union Latine in Paris and Infoterm in Vienna, and two private-enterprise companies, Procterus in Nottingham and International Where-How in Bonn.

It benefited from the support of the national and international organizations including the Federation Internationale des Traducteurs, and the collaboration of an international advisory panel.

This publication contains some 2,000 entries from leading personalities in the domains of translation and terminology from all parts of the world, giving their addresses, biographical details and career information.

It is a major reference source for libraries, universities, journals, conference organizers, international organizations, companies

active in translation and language technology, as well as for translators and terminologists.

The information is provided by those selected for inclusion. The respondent may also choose to have the information printed in any of the four languages, English, French, German or Spanish. A detailed glossary and a standardized structure for each entry make it easy to identify the information, even if you do not read any foreign languages.

The only listing for Jordan is for Dr. Abdullah Al Shunqat, a professor in translation at the English Department in Yarmouk University in Irbid. Dr. Al Shunqat, who is also the president of the Jordanian Translators' Association, has written four academic books on translation and has over 30 scholarly articles to his credit, some of which are *Repetition, translation theory, Semantics and Translation and translatability of cultural expressions*.

'Goat-Sucker' horrifies Mexico

By Molly Moore
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MEXICO CITY—First came the reports of goats, then lambs and roosters, massacred in the night and drained of their blood. The only evidence of their attackers: large fang marks on the animals' necks.

Within days, a farm worker in the western state of Jalisco appeared at a village clinic with bite wounds. His assailant: a beast standing three feet tall with a huge snout and dark, velvety skin.

It has the fangs of a vampire, the wings of a bat and the personality of an extraterrestrial. And now there are sightings everywhere, all across Mexico—in dusty farm villages in the northern desert, in the gulch port of Veracruz, even on the ranch of Guanajuato state Gov. Vicente Fox.

"Goat-Sucker Fever Sweeps the Nation," declared the front page of the *Mexico City Times*, along with an artist's conception of the bug-eyed, winged, demon-like animal that is spreading hysteria—and skepticism—across the land.

Accounts of close encounters with the goat-sucker, which began with reports of farm animal slaughters and have spread to fantastic tales of human confrontations, are filling Mexico's newspapers, headlining the nightly television news and swamping call-in radio shows.

Like Big Foot, Nessie and the yeti before it, no one's bagged—or even photographed—the goat-sucker, or chupacabras. But the government became so concerned about quelling the mania that the state of Sinaloa ordered a zoological task force into the field to find the mystery animal.

The government task force issued its report, which reads somewhat like a bad science fiction novel: There's no goat-sucker, but pollution is now so bad that it's driving ordinary animals mad, giving them the behavioral trappings of crazed alien creatures.

"We have ruled out the theory that the attack on sheep and goats was carried out by a supernatural being or a blood-sucking bat," said Javier Delgadillo, a scientist on the task force, in releasing his team's results. "One explanation for these attacks could be that animals—bats, pumas, dogs, etc.—have been

driven mad by the devastating effects of poisonous gases and toxic wastes on nature. Perhaps what is happening now with the goat-sucker is nature's way of making us pay for the constant damage we have inflicted on the environment."

Ernesto Enkerlin, a wildlife biologist at the Technological Institute of Monterrey, offered the *News of Mexico City* a more plausible theory: "This is a sign of collective psychosis. I don't know if it's the (economic) crisis or what, but this is an exaggerated amount of noise about a fairly common occurrence."

The fairly common occurrence, that is, of wild dogs or wolves preying on farm animals. In fact, veterinarians who examined some of the dead animals said that the body tissues around the fang marks were devoid of blood, a common occurrence in bite cases, while plenty of blood remained in other parts of the corpses.

Those examinations, however, have done nothing to quell the explosion of new reports.

Jose Rodriguez, from the town of Chimalhuacan in the state of Mexico, gave the "Naked City" TV program this chilling tale of a near-encounter inside his house:

"It was early in the morning. I heard a noise like a wild turkey screeching and running around. I was too scared to go and investigate. I was afraid I was about to come face to face with the son of Dracula."

Rodriguez said the goat-sucker fled before he could see it, leaving only a greasy footprint on a living room chair.

Abigail Paven, a 25-year-old nurse from Mexico state, claimed that her arm was severed by a giant bird that swooped into her house. Other unconfirmed and unreliable reports placed the goat-sucker in a schoolyard in the Mexico City suburb of Iztapalapa.

Reports of the goat-sucker have surfaced periodically in Mexico and several other Latin American countries for the last 20 years, most recently in Puerto Rico. But at a time when Mexico hasn't suffered a significant political assassination or resignation in weeks, chances are that the goat-sucker owes his long life this time to news organizations sucked dry of news.

By Jack Mathews
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

OUTLINED AGAINST a silver multiplex screen, the *Four Horsemen* ride again. In dramatic lore, they are known as Famine, Pestilence, Destruction and Death. These are only aliases. Their real names are Schwarzenegger, Williams, Carrey and Cruise.

With apologies to Grantland Rice and Notre Dame, Hollywood's big guns are about to thunder across the plains. The summer movie season is upon us, even if summer isn't, and we will be inundated with everything from killer tornadoes (no, not tomatoes), to invasions from outer space (possibly even cyberspace), to a chase through post-apocalypse Los Angeles (but not in a white Bronco).

We'll see John Travolta in *Phenomenon* playing an ordinary man struck smart by a mysterious light, and a family so stupid, their mail is simply addressed to ... The *Stupids*. Demi Moore will take it off, take it all off, as a single mom in a go-go mode in "Striptease." Rosie Perez will hit the boards as a taxi dancer in "Somebody to Love," and in "Joe's Apartment," a mini-musical if there ever was one, we'll see a chorus of 50,000 song-and-dance cockroaches.

There will be aquatic pets (Flipper), metaphorical birds *The Crow: City of Angels*, cuddly polar bears *Alaska* and a 10th century dragon so cool he will sound like Sean Connery *Dragonheart*.

There will be big things, like the elephant in *Larger Than Life*, the genie played by Shaquille O'Neal in *Kazaam*,

the creature from the museum of natural history in *The Relic* and Eddie Murphy as *The Nutty Professor*. And, as a summer '96 special, an entire sports section. We'll golf with Kevin Costner and Don Johnson in *Tin Cup*, play some basketball for fan-turned-coach Whoopi Goldberg in *Eddie*, go bowling with Woody Harrelson and Randy Quaid in *Kingpin*, and learn from obsessed baseball buff Robert De Niro why *The Fan* is short for "fanatic."

But the real news, or most of the profits, should come from a handful of movies led by the *Four Horsemen* of the Box-Office Blitz. Tom Cruise hits first, as the team leader for Brian De Palma's adaptation of TV's *Mission: Impossible*, that opened in May. Jim Carrey follows as the repairman from hell in *The Cable Guy*, 14 June. Arnold Schwarzenegger arrives the next week, as G-man John Kruger, whose talent for protecting people in the federal witness-protection program has earned him the nickname "Eraser." And in August, Robin Williams stars in Francis Ford Coppola's *Jack* as a man stricken with a malady that

causes him to age at four times the normal human rate.

The biggest gun of all, however, is likely to be no one at all. Not from the live-action world, anyway. The Disney folks have another animated musical coming in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and the last time their animators drew a hunchback, it was for *Beauty and the Beast*. The idea of seeing Esmeralda and Quasimodo cut a rug around the belfry may not make your heart flutter now, but wait till you hear the music sure to give Alan Menken another set of Oscars for his trophy case.

Also competing for the big bucks will be Edward Zwick's *Courage Under Fire*, starring Denzel Washington and Meg Ryan, and Joel Schumacher's *A Time to Kill*, adapted from the first of the John Grisham lawyer-lit trope that has already produced hit screen versions of *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief* and *The Client*.

As for themes, the summer is weighted in favor of fantasy, but there are still some action films. Kurt Russell returns, 15 years after *Escape From New York*, to reprise his John Wayne-inspired Snake

Plissken in *John Carpenter's Escape From New York*. And Leslie Nielsen spoofs action films in *Spy Hard*.

There are plenty of buddy action films, too. Morgan Freeman and Keanu Reeves team up in *Chain Reaction*, a high-tech thriller directed by the Andrew Davis. *The Fugitive*. Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage are unlikely allies, an ex-con and an FBI agent, trying to reclaim Alcatraz from terrorists, in *The Rock*. Laurence Fishburne and Stephen Baldwin are chums on the run, escaped cons, in *Fled*. And, in the *Thelma & Louise* class, or maybe not, Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon plot together to swindle the mob in *Bound*.

It's going to be hard to avoid the array of science fiction, mythology, meteorology and horror fantasies clogging the summer pipeline. We've already mentioned several *Dragonheart*, *Phenomenon*, *Kazaam*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Children can also look forward to a live-action version of *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, with Martin Landau as Geppetto and Jonathan Taylor Thomas as his living handicraft.

The box-office buzz, however, has been focused on 20th Century Fox's *Independence Day*, ever since bits of the film were shown to exhibitors at their annual Las Vegas convention in March, and the other studios have given it wide berth on the premium 4 July weekend.

From the coming attractions, *Independence Day* looks like a combination of *War of the Worlds*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and *Star Wars*. It's the flip side of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. What if that mother ship had hovered over Washington, DC, played a hell of *Bad to the Bone* and blew the hell out of everything?

Those of us who remember what *Star Wars* and *Close Encounters* wrought, a decade's worth of imitative video-arcade junk, will watch this summer's returns closely. Apart from *Independence Day*, the alien invasion continues with *The Arrival*, in which Charlie Sheen plays an astronomer trying to isolate the source of a space-rattling sound wave. In *Solo*, Mario Van Peebles plays a state-of-the-art warrior robot who—stop me if this sounds familiar—can think and learn and

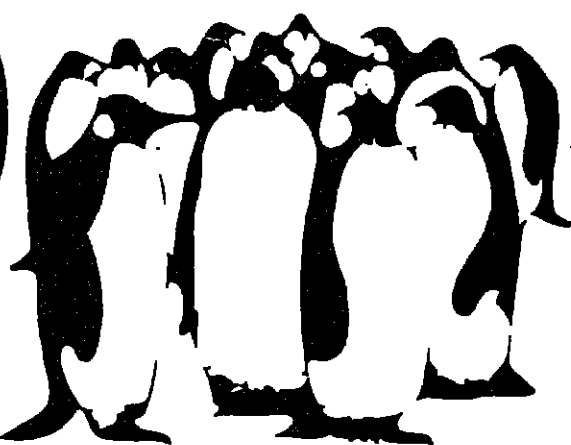
begin to feel ... human. (You forgot to stop me.)

Many of the sci-fi-themed films are, encouragingly, comedies. In *The Frighteners*, directed by New Zealander Peter Jackson *Heavenly Creatures*, Michael J. Fox plays a bogus ghostbuster who has the tables turned on him when a serial killer from the other side shows up. In *Multiplicity*, Michael Keaton does what any sensible person would do if he's spread too thin: He has himself cloned.

Of a more urgent nature, both because of its release date and its subject, is Jan De Bont's *Twister*, which launched the summer season Friday. Talk about gonzo marketing. In the press notes for *Twister*, tornadoes take on mythic poetic dimension: "Tornadoes are a singular phenomenon, at once breathtaking in their beauty and unspeakable in their ruin." It goes on to say that in their capricious nature, the same tornado that lays waste to acres of property will scoop up a baby and gently release it, unharmed, miles away. It will flatten one house, while leaving one a few feet away untouched.

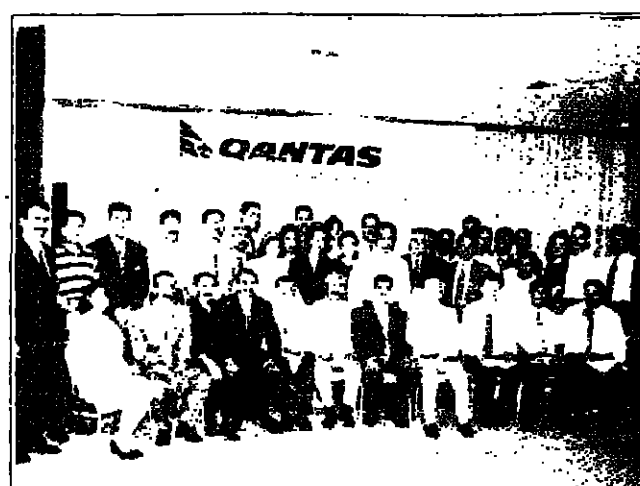
It takes nerve to release a disaster movie in the middle of the disaster. Everybody gambles in the summer, but it doesn't take much imagination—well, a little wicked imagination—to see a Page 1 wire service photo of a mall laid to ruin in a tornado's path, shapeless rubble spread over a vast parking lot, except for the facade of its movie theater, and its perfectly untouched marquee. "Now showing—*Twister*." Have a nice summer.

AROUND TOWN



Workshop for travel agents at Inter.Con

● The Hashweh Corp., CSA, for Qantas and British Airways in Jordan, held a workshop for local travel agents at Hotel InterContinental, Jordan. It was attended by Mr. Mahmood Bahman A.H. regional manager for Qantas. He spoke about the excellent relations between Jordan and Australia. This workshop is a part of the Hashweh Corp., efforts to support the travel trade in Jordan.



White City blossoms through the ages

By Harry Pullens
Special to The Star

At 72 Tawfik Ayed is at the ripe age of retirement. But 50 years ago, on the eve of Jordan's independence from the British, he was a young man trying to launch his own business.

This simple but cultured man, known as Abu Hamid, spent most of his life traveling as a trader throughout the Kingdom dealing with all sorts of merchandise.

A native of Amman, Abu Hamid keenly followed the city's development from a small hamlet to a bustling metropolis. Looking back in time, Abu Hamid tries to chart the tremendous changes that his city has gone through. But his eyes light up when he talks of the past. He chuckles as he reminisces about the bygone days. "We may have come a long way in terms of development, giving how Amman was then," he says. "But everything was completely in its place. Life was simple, and there were no complications."

Everything has changed completely he says. He regrets what he describes as the trend of people growing increasingly ignorant of their culture and heritage. "Development is something impera-

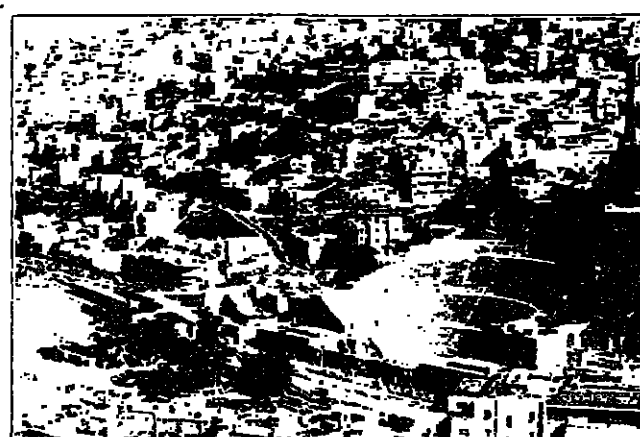
tive and valuable, but that which adopts our culture and preserves our identity," he says.

For Abu Hamid, Amman today is a major departure from the town of little over 60,000 people, small houses and modest social amenities 50 years ago. As Jordan celebrates its Golden Jubilee of independence, Amman has become a modern capital of 1.5 million people constituting one third of the country's population.

Amman, once known as Philadelphia, is a city with a significant and ancient character, being a place steeped in history with countless civilizations which seem to have left a profound direction which the city has continued to move.

Giving this impressive history, down the road, since independence there seem to have been a strongly felt desire by the Ammanites to conquer, strengthen their independence, built upon their ancient development and assert their cultural characteristics all encouraged by historical awareness. Amman, the formerly Greco-Roman city was originally spread over seven hills like Rome in the distant past, but now covers at least 19 hills.

Amman is often called "The White City" as a result



of the white stones of the country used in the construction of its houses. This outstanding whiteness of modern buildings together with the numerous desert castles and historical treasures ubiquitous everywhere has given it a contrasting outlook, making it a combination of both the ancient and modern.

Abdul Salam, a shop-owner in downtown Amman, was only a teenager when Jordan gained its independence. He says that the development of Amman since 1946 was beyond anyone's dream. "The forecasts of people about Amman in the past differs sharply from the reality of today," he says. "No one could have imagined that Amman would become the modern city that we see today."

Throughout its history, Amman has been open to development, "but many found it hard to share in the vision of the leadership about the future of the city and indeed the whole country."

So many factors have contributed to the making of modern Amman, but most significantly is its reputation as a safe haven for displaced per-

sons and refugees who have contributed significantly to its cultural, social, political and economic development.

Another factor is the exemplary leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

In sharp contrast to the Amman of 1946, Ammanites today have access to clean water, electricity, schools and other amenities. Mobile phones are now frequently seen everywhere, with ultra-modern buildings in new settlements, numerous universities both private and public, with many primary and high schools offering the most qualitative education.

Amman is still rapidly growing. It has become a busy commercial and administrative center with many fine hotels, nightclubs, and discos, art galleries, modern sporting centers and convention halls. With the far-reaching influence of peace in the region, Amman is viewed by many international and local business people as a meeting ground for both regional and international business transactions.

Manko paints nature



Amina Manko is a painter who devoted her paintings to depicting pictures of nature. She uses her imaginative eye to unravel the secrets of the treasures of nature.

Manko held an exhibition at the premises of Al Hussein Society for the Disabled which received the admiration of everybody. On display were 51 ink and oil paintings beside etchings.

The artist, born in 1970 and studied art at Cambridge in Britain, Italy and France has been greatly influenced by the renowned Jordanian artist Fakhr Al Nisa Zeid who had been the thesis of Manko's paper submitted to the faculty of arts in Italy.

The positive view towards nature is manifested through Manko's "Bright-colored" paintings. On the other hand, Manko touched upon the human dimension through portraying the underprivileged areas with children wearing rags. Some of her paintings are "Dead Sea Winter Sunset", "Shepherd", and "Bird".

Tunisian delegation in Jordan to mark air route

A 30-man Tunisian delegation is currently in Amman to celebrate the opening of the Amman-Tunis air route. The delegation, which is headed by the Director-General of Tunisair, Mr. Taher Al Haj Ali, includes 30 Tunisian deputies, Ministry of Tourism officials, businessmen, travel agents and chief editors. The aim of the visit is to develop the tourist relations and acquaint the people of both countries with the tourist sites of each country.

The regional director of Tunisair, Mr. Husni Bin Said, stated that as well as meeting officials, delegates are visiting Petra, Jerash and the Dead Sea. The visit, which lasts till 2 June, is to increase cooperation between Jordan and Tunis in the field of tourism and aviation. Mr. Ali is holding a press conference at the Amman Marriott on June 1 at 8 a.m.



Bin Said

Orbit celebrates two years on air

Orbit Satellite Television and Radio Network celebrated its two years of transmissions last week. Launched in 1994 with a channel package of 16 television and 4 radio channels, the network has grown to offer over 30 television and radio channels.

Named "1994 Broadcast Operation of the Year" at the International Broadcasting Convention, Orbit has received numerous other awards ranging from two Gold Promax Awards for Orbit's graphics in 1995 to Best Arab Sports Commentator for Khalid Al Harban, as well as the recent spate of honors received from Egyptian publication *Kolnas*, which recognized the Fun Club, the innovative weekly children's programme; Sports Confrontation, the in-depth Arabic sports interview show; and Mukhama and Ala Al Hawa, Orbit-produced talk-shows offering a detailed look at Arabic culture and politics.

During the past two years, the Orbit Group has grown to be the recognized leader in the Arab television market. Exclusive programming agreements with entities such as Columbia Tristar, Warner Bros and ESPN, and channel deals with Walt Disney Television, Discovery, and Canal +, attest to the esteem Orbit has won industry-wide. The network's advanced transmission technology, state-of-the-art customer service and premium offerings have been matched by a steady subscriber growth—now at 100,000 viewing points.

OVERHEARD AT TURINO.

TURINO has started distributing a new promotion booklet detailing the New Summer menu. Three special line menus have been created for the new season with an exciting variety of first class food, using top quality ingredients offered at affordable prices.

STARTERS & SALADS

Each of the three menus starts with a selection of mezza and your choice of salad.

MAIN DISHES

- I. Our PASTA CARNIVAL features your choice of Italian and Southern Mediterranean pasta cuisine with a variety of exquisite sauces.
- II. The SKEWER LINE menu consists of your choice of Oriental, Teriyaki or Curry skewers served with either rice or French fries.
- III. For those who prefer seafood TURINO offers a very exclusive yet health-oriented menu which it calls the Shrimp and Seafood Line—your meat alternative. Your choice of *Hamour Provencal*, Grilled or fried OR Grilled Shrimps both served with sautéed vegetables.

TURINO guarantees that the chef uses the highest quality ingredients absolutely for all menu items. The important point to mention here is the all-inclusive prices for our guests this Summer.

PASTA CARNIVAL JD 12
SKEWER LINE JD 12
SEAFOOD & SHRIMP JD 13

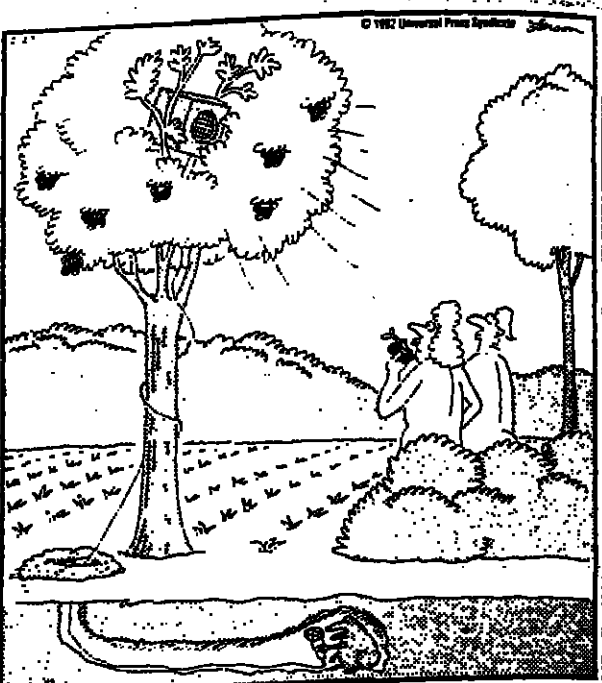
All inclusive of taxes and service charges. Soft drinks are included.
(We understand that you may get away with a glass of wine instead. Try it!)

The atmosphere of Turino is absolutely fabulous, trendy although classic in interior. The specially selected high quality repro-music is ethnic Mediterranean and offers charming varieties from famous singers.
For visitors to Jordan, Turino is tucked round the main square Swefiyeh on the southern side of 6th Circle.

Turino. Passion for Fun! Dial Now-863944

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Eat my apple, will you? LEAVE MY GARDEN! BEGONE! ... And take all the mole traps with you!"



"Good heavens! Pablo got an 'F' in art! ... Well, I'm just going to go down to that school myself and meet this teacher face to face!"



"Raised the ol' girl from a cub, I did. ... 'Course, we had to get a few things straight between us. She don't try to follow me into town anymore and I don't try and take her food bowl away 'til she's done."

AGENDA

Exhibitions
■ The works of Rafic majzoub, at The French Cultural Center, opening on Monday 3 June continues till 27 June
■ An exhibition entitled *From Picasso to our Present*, Days from the collection of Museo del Grabado Español Contemporaneo-Marbella at Darat al Funun, continues till 6 June.
■ An exhibition entitled *Christophe herse*, at The French Cultural Center, continues till 27 June.

Films
■ Eduardo Chillida, at Darat al Funun, Thursday 30 May at 6:00 pm.
■ The Jazz Singer, at The American Center, Thursday 30 May at 5pm.
■ *Un coeur en hiver*, at The French Cultural Center, Monday 3 June at 8 pm.

Inter.Con holds children painting's exhibition

● Under the patronage of Princess Wijdan and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Hotel InterContinental and the 30th anniversary of Ad Dastour, a children's painting exhibition, titled "Happy Childhood" will be held at the Inter.Con's Grand Ballroom on 31 May at 6 pm.

1st Euro-Arab Jazz Festival

Tastes for the dilettante

The Delegation of the European Commission in Jordan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, is organizing the first Euro-Arab Jazz Festival in Jordan. The festival will be held under the patronage of HRH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid.

European and Jordanian artists will be performing between the 6-18 June in Amman. Each concert will begin at 9:30 pm. Spain will open the festival with Victor Valls Quartet.

Following this is Faculty X from Jordan, a five-man band whose music focuses on Latin Fusion Jazz.

Two Radiet from Italy will unite the best of popular Italian music with Jazz while Tete Montoliu from Spain will create magic with his piano playing. The Rabih

Abu Khalil Quintet from Germany will provide the link between oriental music and Jazz by combining the two styles.

France will be represented by the Sclavis/Pifarely Acoustic Quartet who are one of the most adventurous Jazz players today, and the Cynthia MacPherson Quintet with Ms. MacPherson's inimitable singing voice.

Following this comes the Nathalie Loriers Trio, a young piano playing group from Belgium, the Grazer Saxophone Quartet from Austria, and the talented Rollin' Phones from Sweden.

All the performances will take place at the Roman Amphitheater in Amman. Ticket prices are set at 2 JD. The Jazz Festival will also be an opportunity for meetings with young amateurs and

old ones, and with everybody who loves or discovers this kind of music that originally comes from America and which has been successfully interpreted by European artists and their contemporaries.

The aim of the festival is to create a place for musical exchange and meetings between artists.

Euro-Arab Jazz Festival Programme

AMMAN	DATE
Victor Valls Quartet	Thursday 6 June
Faculty X Duo Radiet Tete Montoliu Rabih Abou Khalil	Saturday 8 June Sunday 9 June Monday 10 June Tuesday 11 June
Sclavis/Pifarely Acoustic Nathalie Loriers Trio Grazer Saxophone Quartet Mac Phones Rollin' Phones Play Off	Thursday 13 June Friday 14 June Saturday 15 June Sunday 16 June Monday 17 June Thursday 18 June

Environmental awareness enhanced through Al Reem

AL REEM is the title of the quarterly Jordanian magazine which specializes in nature and the environment. It is issued by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) including a wide variety of environmental topics, researches and features on natural treasures of Jordan.

The magazine can be seen as part of the continuous efforts exerted by the RSCN to preserve nature. It seeks to spread environmental awareness among people and to attract them to enroll in the society. By facilitating the conditions of membership, the RSCN wants to expand the number of nature lovers and lessen those that are indifferent to preserving nature.

The latest issue of the publication came out last March. It celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the society and reviewed its accomplishments over the past years. HM Queen Noor commended the society's performance and its role in protecting nature and "highlighting the direct relations

hip between environmental protection and sustainable development in Jordan". She added that the RSCN is responsible for the expanded technical capacity and manpower development that have benefited our environmental conservation institutions during the past 30 years.

Mr. Anees Al Muasher, president of the RSCN, said in his article that the society is a pioneering

national foundation on both local and international levels. He said that when it was first established, it went through low phases, people were still unfamiliar with the idea and even some expressed their resentment.

In addition to the significant role of the society in establishing natural reserves and controlling hunting, Al Muasher pointed out that the society must live up to the future challenges.

The issue contained specialized environmental topics and features. There is a review on the reintroduction of the Arabian Oryx to the Shaumari nature reserve, the first to be established in Jordan, Adnan Al Budairi, head of the studies and research department wrote about the goals, achievements and ambitions of his department. Sterilizing water by using the solar energy was another topic written by Dr. Ali Zubeir Al Karmi, professor at the Hashemite University.



MAY 1996
Special section offering fresh perspectives on global issues prepared by The Star

Articized, chemical
or the
world can
people v

orce-feeding

each year, farmers for
with millions of tons
chemicals. This
the areas of the world
and it, has helped
world's food production
imaginable even 40
there are signs that
in, crops out
breaking down: signs
polluted rivers and aqu
soil and diminishing
national fertilizer.

Brand
Mississippi River, which
is a vast area of the United
States referred to as "the na-
tional breadbasket" provides ac-
cess to the sea for hun-
dreds of ships carrying
millions of tons of grain and
other exports. That
access is due to the 1.8 billion kilo-
grams of fertilizer that has
been used in the fields of the
Mississippi valley.

Mississippi also illustrates
the use of fertilizer. A
huge algal bloom off
the river consumes the
oxygen, turning hundreds of
miles of the river into a
"dead zone." Fertilizer
residue that has
drifted out of the fields into the
Mississippi an isolat-
ed area has been seen similar
to the Mediterranean and Rus-
sian seas. Chemical fertilizers
pose a threat to the use of in-
termediate water in parts of In-
dia and the U.S.

environmental issues, allied
with the gain from additional
crop production in many parts
of the world, has prompted a re-
examination of the simple equation
of chemical and organic fertil-
izer added to the soil to offset the
depletion by crops. Among
the issues are:

What is currently an
excess of fertilizer applied to
the soil is absorbed by an ear-
then layer, digested, and the
excess is discharged into the
water. In nations like China
and India, there is a deep
concern over using human ma-
nure, hence the nutrients
from human waste are only "used"
in their way into the
water. Phosphates and
nitrogen fertilizers are solu-

MAY 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



Much criticized, chemical fertilizer has one redeeming quality:

For the moment, the world can't feed six billion people without it

Force-feeding the Earth

Each year, farmers force-feed the earth millions of tons of manure and chemicals. This fertilizer, in the areas of the world that can afford it, has helped boost the world's food production to levels unimaginable even 40 years ago. But there are signs that the fertilizer in, crops out equation is breaking down; signs that include polluted rivers and aquifers, sterile soil and diminishing returns on additional fertilizer.

By Cameron Brandt
THE MISSISSIPPI River, which drains a vast area of the United States often referred to as "the nation's breadbasket," provides access to the sea for hundreds of ships carrying millions of tons of grain and cereals bound for export. That the US has this bounty is due in large part to the 1.8 billion kilograms of fertilizer the nation's farmers apply to their fields each year.

But the Mississippi also illustrates another side to the use of fertilizer. Each summer, a huge algal bloom off the mouth of the river consumes the available oxygen, turning hundreds of square miles into a "dead zone." Fueling that bloom—along with human sewage—is fertilizer residue that has been washed out of the fields into the river. Nor is the Mississippi an isolated case. The Mediterranean and Russia's inland seas have seen similar blooms, and nitrates from both organic and chemical fertilizers pose a threat to groundwater in parts of India, China and the US.

These environmental issues, allied with the fact that the gain from additional fertilizer is shrinking in many parts of the world, has prompted a reassessment of the simple equation whereby chemical and organic fertilizers are added to the soil to offset the nutrients absorbed by crops. Among the major issues are:

• How to close what is currently an open-ended loop. Fertilizer applied to a field in the US is absorbed by an ear of corn that can easily end up in China, where it is eaten, digested, and the resulting sewage discharged into the ocean. Even in nations like China where the government is strong relative to the individual, there is a deep-seated resistance to using human manure as fertilizer, hence the nutrients in a lot of fertilizer are only "used" once before finding their way into the world's oceans.

• The migration of phosphates and nitrates from fertilizer into rivers and aquifers.

• Since nearly all fertilizers are solu-

ble, anything that the plants do not absorb has the potential to be washed or leached away. This imposes economic losses on farmers and damages freshwater ecosystems that already have multiple human demands placed upon them.

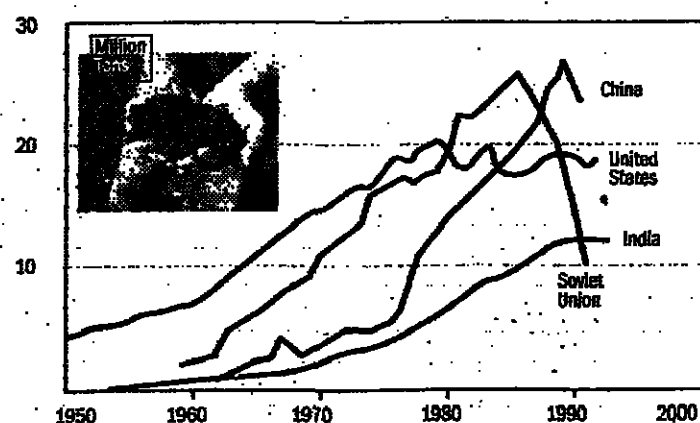
Questions about the long-term effect on soil fertility. In addition to altering the chemical composition of the soil, fertilizer use encourages the repeated planting of a single crop and multiple harvests. This increases the likelihood of machinery disturbing and compacting the soil, specific nutrients being removed and the soil being without erosion-resistant plant cover for longer

periods of time. Applied to losses at present are estimated at 50 percent with a value of US\$4 billion annually.

In spite of these issues, however, the use of fertilizer will continue unabated. In developing countries, the average use per hectare is projected to grow from the current 70 kilograms per hectare to 110 kilograms by 2010. And the reason is simple: until population growth levels off and the pressure on existing cropland eases, farms will have to keep squeezing more out of the areas under cultivation.

According to Robert Brinkman, director of FAO's Land and Water Development Division, "One of the central reasons for non-sustainability of

DIMINISHING RETURNS



After decades of steady growth, the use of chemical fertilizers has begun to level off or decline in some of the biggest nations

periods of time.

• The ability of existing plant species to absorb fertilizer. Between 1950 and 1980, farmers could expect an additional ton of fertilizer to boost grain yields by 9 tons. Today, an additional ton of fertilizer yields under 2 tons of extra grain. The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is working with the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to reduce the amount of nitrogen from fertilizer that does not get absorbed by the rice plants it is ap-

plied to—losses at present are estimated at 50 percent with a value of US\$4 billion annually. In spite of these issues, however, the use of fertilizer will continue unabated. In developing countries, the average use per hectare is projected to grow from the current 70 kilograms per hectare to 110 kilograms by 2010. And the reason is simple: until population growth levels off and the pressure on existing cropland eases, farms will have to keep squeezing more out of the areas under cultivation.

agricultural production in many developing countries is the very inadequate input of (fertilizers), so that the soils are steadily mined of their fertility, with the result that crop yields go down and (the) countries become more dependent on external food supplies."

The key to solving many of the dilemmas posed by the use of fertilizers—currently 125 millions tons annually worldwide—are research, education and the right political climate.

▶ SIX BILLION PEOPLE PAGE 2



Exhausted fields spell trouble

Smallholders in Kenya are now waiting for the leaves to fall

By Thomas O. McOWITI

ACCORDING TO THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Africa is the only region of the world where per capita food production is declining. Any debate about the right types of fertilizer and its proper use are overshadowed by poverty and extreme need.

The record of food production for the 600 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa has been dismal. The food deficit, which stood at 10 million tons in 1990, will be a staggering 90 million by 2020, according to a 1994 World Bank report. Malnutrition among children is at an all-time high, with nearly a third suffering to some degree.

Clearly, many African countries, some of the world's poorest, are losing the battle to feed their people.

There are many reasons for this, but perhaps one of the most critical is the loss of soil fertility on the smallholder farms that produce most of Africa's food. Traditionally, African farmers left their land fallow for 40-50 years to restore its fertility. However, high population pressure has shortened fallow periods—or eliminated them altogether—on much of the continent. Pedro Sánchez, the director general of the Nairobi-based International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), points out that, "African soils have been cropped for centuries with little or no external addition of nutrients, decreasing their ability to sustain crops."

One way to restore soil fertility is to use purchased inorganic fertilizers. However, a study by the Tropical Soils Biology and Fertility (TSBF) unit found that Kenya's fertilizer use is only 37 percent of what it should be, and is mostly confined to commercial farms and export crops. Of the subsistence farmers who grow three-quarters of the country's food, 90 percent use little or no fertilizer simply because they cannot afford it.

The quickest way to solve the fertility crisis might be, of course, to apply large amounts of inorganic fertilizers. Ludwig Schatz, coordinator of a fertilizer extension project run jointly by Kenya's ministry of agriculture and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation says that, "there is no option but to increase the quantity and efficiency of use of inorganic fertilizers because the extent of nutrient depletion is just too great."

Paul Woomer, a scientist working with TSBF, also favors increased fertilizer use. But he recognizes that with removal of subsidies to farm inputs, few

subsistence farmers in Africa can afford inorganic fertilizers. Woomer believes the answer might lie in increased use of cheaper, unprocessed rock phosphate for phosphorus and other inorganic sources for nitrogen. According to Woomer, good rock phosphate can be up to 65 percent as effective as inorganic fertilizer, yet cost about half as much.

Except for Zimbabwe, South Africa and the countries in the north, most African countries import the fertilizer they use. A few sub-Saharan African countries have commercial deposits of phosphate rock, but lack the necessary capacity to manufacture fertilizers.

Luckily, it makes no difference to the plants where the nutrients they use come from—organic and inorganic sources of fertilizers do equally well. Nitrogen, for example, can easily be replenished organically using leguminous plants, which trap nitrogen from the air and fix it in the soil, or deep-rooted trees such as *sesbania sesban* that extract nitrogen from the subsoil and make it available to shallow-rooted crops.

In Chipata, eastern Zambia, where soil fertility and crop yields have been falling steadily, agroforestry researchers have developed an improved fallow system using fast-growing leguminous trees in place of the traditional grass or weed fallow. The trees drop enormous amounts of leaf litter. Furthermore, the roots, left in the ground when the fallow is cleared, continue to decompose over time and nourish future crops.

The results are exciting. Trials with *sesbania* trees resulted in large increases in maize yield compared with unfertilized maize fields in the first two years after fallow clearance. Researchers obtained yields of 5.0 and 5.6 tons per hectare in 1990 and 1991, higher than the yields of 4.9 and 4.3 tons on fertilized fields, and a mere 1.2 and 1.9 tons on unfertilized fields.

Such natural systems have other advantages too. Not only do they improve soil fertility, they also improve the water-holding capacity of the soil, microbial activity, and help improve the microclimate on farms. In Chipata, farmers experimenting on their own with the "fallow" trees—and they number over 1,000 already—also noticed a marked decrease in weed infestation, particularly the parasitic weed striga, which usually thrives in poor soils and plagues cereal crops throughout Africa. Above all, such agroforestry systems are sustainable and easy to maintain.

According to Sánchez, agroforestry cannot supply most of the phosphorus inputs required by crops. Most of the phosphorus accumulated by cereal crops and grain legumes is in the grain, which constitutes the harvest. So the most pragmatic option is for farmers who can afford it to use inorganic fertilizers in combination with organic ones. ◊

McOWITI O. THOMAS WORKS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN AGROFORESTRY IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

Political manure

Perhaps the greatest constraints to fertilizer use in Africa today are inappropriate government policies on land ownership and tenure, agriculture, and food marketing (or trade).

A farmer would hesitate to improve the productivity of land that he or she is not sure to retain the following year, or carry out labor intensive tasks such as terracing to retain top soil on such land. Most fertilizer use is biased towards cash and export crops. Yet most African farmers live on subsistence crops such as cassava, yams, traditional vegetables and fruits. Often, the prices of these crops are too low to justify the use of expensive commercial fertilizers, as does lack of protection from the dumping of cheap food imports into the local market, and lack of reasonable credit facilities.

Recently, structural adjustment programs (SAPs)—implemented to restore credibility in foreign capital markets—have further reduced most farmers' capacity to use fertilizer. In Kenya for instance, SAPs came in with liberalization, both for the local market and the import/export markets. Importation and reselling of fertilizer is now totally free, but the prices never went down. Instead, liberalization of the import sector allowed wheat and maize millers (mostly politically-connected individuals and government officials) to import large quantities of cheaper cereals. Local farmers are thus unable to sell their produce. The government's response? Blame SAPs and do nothing.

—By Thomas O. McOWITI

World's most populous nation faces the question

China pins its hopes on organic fertilizer

By Zhao Qinghua

FACED WITH a growing population and limited farmland, China is pinning some of its hopes on the aggressive use of organic fertilizer. If all goes according to plan, grain yields will be increased by 50 million tons annually over the next five years.

Under the current plan, the use of organic fertilizer will grow by 5 percent a year through 2000. The official goal is an average of no less than 30 tons per hectare per year. To provide

REPORTING FROM BEIJING

sufficient organic fertilizer, a number of measures will be introduced and promoted. These include processing animal and human wastes, planting "green manure" crops that will be plowed back into the soil and using microbes to break down the stalks of harvested plants.

This commitment to organic fertilizers, which is an important part of the law governing China's agriculture, is seen as a key factor in the protection of existing farmland and the sustainable production of crops. An age-old practice in China, "the increased use of organic manure is an important, irreplaceable way to improve soil fertility and develop sustainable agriculture," says Wang Jindeng, director of the Agriculture Ministry's Soil and Fertilizer Section. While some chemical fertilizers are needed, better use of organic varieties allows farmers to boost production at a lower cost. "and this becomes an important strategy for

increasing the staying power of China's agriculture," explains Wang.

Mobilizing these sources has involved extensive government efforts. Starting in 1989, for instance, the provincial government of Heilongjiang has given awards to officials and technicians who promote the use of organic fertilizer. As a result, some US\$72 million has been invested in organic fertilizer production and application. Of that total, farmers accounted for US\$42 million.

These efforts to improve the soil of medium and low-yielding fields can result in dramatic improvements. The 526 peasant families in Shangyuan, a village in Xinjiang county, increased their output of wheat by 25 percent

AN ORGANIC MENU

There are five main sources of organic fertilizers in China:

Manure from farm animals, which accounts for 60 percent of China's organic fertilizer

Stalks of harvested crops

Green manure: crops grown with the intention of plowing them back into the soil

Sludge from river or lake beds

Slurry from the treatment of human sewage

at great cost to the city.

In an effort to get peasants to use night soil, which agronomists say is an excellent fertilizer, Shanghai has introduced a subsidy that cost the municipal government \$5 million in 1995. But the foul smell and transportation difficulties continue to hobble efforts to promote its use.

While Shanghai's experience with night soil represents a setback, the overall role of organic fertilizers in China's agricultural sector will continue to grow, says Wang, who adds

suburban peasants are using less and less, meaning that more and more must be piped, treated and discharged

that all sectors of the economy must be involved for this to happen. ☐

ZHAO QINGHUA IS A WRITER FOR *China Features*, A DIVISION OF THE OFFICIAL CHINESE NEWS AGENCY XINHUA.

SIX BILLION PEOPLE

Continued from page 1

The latter is especially important, since proper use of fertilizers represents an investment in materials, technology and education that will only be made if farmers believe the benefits won't be taken from them.

In time, research efforts should result in better fertilizers and plants that can fully utilize them. Work is underway in the US and Europe on fertilizers whose nutrients are released in a "controlled" manner that ties in with the growing cycle of plants. Other research is focused on simpler goals; fer-

tilizers that do not wash out of the soil so easily, or do not require lengthy production processes. Canadian and Zimbabwean experts have developed a method of combining phosphate rock with commercial fertilizer and food waste that avoids the treatment with sulfuric acid normally needed.

A great deal of research is also being done on agricultural systems that require fewer chemical inputs. Some organic farmers have been able to boost yields without using any chemical fertilizers by varying their crops, applying organic fertilizers when needed and paying close attention to soil quality so that nutrients are not lost to erosion and leaching. Many vineyards in California, including the well-known Gallo-Sonoma company, have successfully introduced some of these approaches. China (see related story) has made a major commitment—both financially and legally—to the use of organic fertilizers.

Fertilizer, and its use, has come a long way since the ancient Egyptians waited for the flooding Nile River to deposit nutrient-rich silt over their fields. But the progress must continue, and take a more environmentally aware direction, if the algal bloom that forms each year off the mouth of the Mississippi River is not to become fertilizer's defining image. ☐

CAMERON BRANDT IS MANAGING EDITOR OF *The World Paper*.

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Local supplies wither

Peru feeds growth with imports

By Victor Mantilla and Ricardo Yi

AT THE END OF LAST year, two of Peru's major fertilizer companies—Fertisa and Indus—filed for bankruptcy. They fell victim to foreign competition, milestones in a year where fertilizer imports jumped 30 percent compared to 1994.

That Peru is becoming a major importer of fertilizers may, at first glance, appear surprising. The country has good reserves of phosphate rock, a key ingredient in many fertilizers, and the urea-rich bird droppings scraped from the offshore guano islands gave the country an commanding position in the pre-World War II market for fertilizer. Yet, in 1995 the country imported 231,871 tons of urea, 47,647 tons of diamonic phosphate and 13,467 tons of potassium chloride.

The decline in domestic fertilizer production comes at a time when agricultural production—which accounts for about one-tenth of the country's gross domestic product—is posting steady gains. Coffee, rice, cotton, sugar and fruit are the main crops. The Ministry of Agriculture predicts growth over the next five years, and the diversifying agricultural sector is demanding a wider and more complex variety of fertilizers.

It is a demand that local producers are unable to meet. Hobbled by limited product ranges, local producers ran into problems when they experimented with new types. Fierce foreign competition cut profit margins to the point where firms like Fertisa could not afford the costs associated with develop-

ing and marketing new types of product. For instance, this competition helped push the prices of ammonium sulfate and potassium chloride—two widely used fertilizers—down by 86 percent in 1995.

Not all fertilizer prices went down. Urea, which accounts for over half of all imported fertilizers bought by Peruvian farmers, jumped 75 percent in price to US\$241 per ton. The warning is clear: in sectors where Peru has no production capacity, fertilizer prices are likely to rise as foreign suppliers adjust to

the lack of competition.

In the short run, Peru's dynamic, export-oriented agriculture sector is likely to find that foreign firms supply an increasing share of its fertilizer needs. In the long-run, however, officials hope that the level of demand will attract the attention of investors, giving new life to a battered domestic fertilizer industry. ☐

VICTOR MANTILLA IS AN ECONOMIC ANALYST FOR *Semana Económica*, A LIMA-BASED NEWSMAGAZINE. RICARDO YI IS AN ANALYST FOR MACROCONSULT, AN ECONOMIC CONSULTING FIRM.



Foreign soil: fertilizer imports into Peru are surging as local firms struggle

RUSSIA PORTFOLIO

THE RUSSIAN SECURITIES NEWSLETTER

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WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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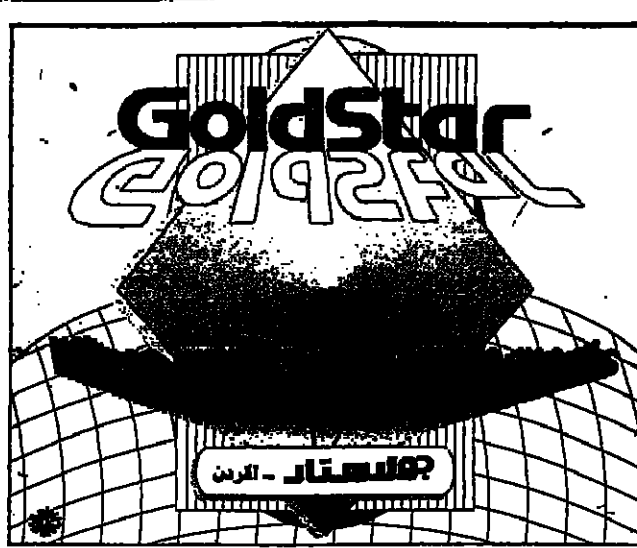
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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 1-7 June



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Cinema

"CASINO" (MCA/Universal, J): Robert De Niro and director Martin Scorsese yield yet another memorable collaboration with this big-scale drama of racketeering in Las Vegas, with the actor playing the operator of one of the city's most popular gambling dens. He has to ward off those who would oust him, with the love of his life (Oscar nominee Sharon Stone) a liability to him; Joe Pesci also appears. *** (R: AS, P, GV)

"NICK OF TIME" (Paramount, J): Unfolding in real time, as it would in actual life, director John Badham's thriller casts Johnny Depp as a businessman blackmailed by two crafty villains (Christopher Walken, Roma Maffia) into participating in a political-assassination plot. If he doesn't cooperate, his young daughter — who's been kidnapped by them — will be killed; Marsha Mason also is featured. ** (R: P, V)

HELD OVER: "CARRINGTON" (PolyGram, J): Jonathan Pryce ("Barbarians at the Gate," Broadway's "Miss Saigon") earned a great deal of critical praise for his performance as author Lynton Strachey in this drama directed by Christopher Hampton, who wrote "Dangerous Liaisons." Emma Thompson also stars in the title role of the painter who loved him passionately, despite their widely varying lifestyles. *** (R: AS, P)

"TOM AND HUCK" (Disney, J): Though Mark Twain's sagas of the adventurous lads Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn have been told numerous times, this latest version makes a stab at appealing to today's younger audience by casting Jonathan Taylor Thomas ("Home Improvement") and Brad Renfro ("The Client") in the roles. As usual, they find plenty of excitement in their Mississippi River exploits. ** (PG: V)

"THE DOOM GENERATION" (Vidmark, J): Definitely not a film for casual after-dinner viewing, this is the saga of three travelers — played by Johnathon Schaech, Rose McGowan and James Duval — on a campaign of free-for-all violence. Such familiar TV faces as Christopher Knight ("The Brady Bunch") and Lauren Tewes ("The Love Boat") turn up, as does someone by the name of Heidi Fleiss. ** (R and unrated versions: AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "DUNSTON CHECKS IN" (Fox, May 28): Jason Alexander plays the manager of a posh hotel targeted by a jewel thief and his clever orangutan accomplice. (PG)

"GET SHORTY" (MGM/UA, May 28): John Travolta stars as a small-time hoodlum introduced to the world of showbiz. Gene Hackman and Rene Russo also appear. (R)

"WILD BILL" (MGM/UA, May 28): Jeff Bridges portrays Western legend Wild Bill Hickok in director Walter Hill's revisionist biography; Ellen Barkin also stars. (R)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Moomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
4:40—Big Brother Jake
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Ellen
8:00—Discovering the 7th Continent
8:30—Miami Vice
9:10—Earth Assignment
9:35—Prism
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *Soffel*, starring, Diane Keaton and Mel Gibson.

SUNDAY

3:00—The Mask
3:30—Mac and Mutley
4:00—Italian Soccer
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Cinema, Cinema
8:00—The American Chart Show
8:30—Jordanian Armed Forces Band
8:45—Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
9:10—Blackie's Magic
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Counterstrike

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
3:30—Richie Rich
4:00—Animals of the Mediterranean
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Nanny

8:00—Rhythms That Speak

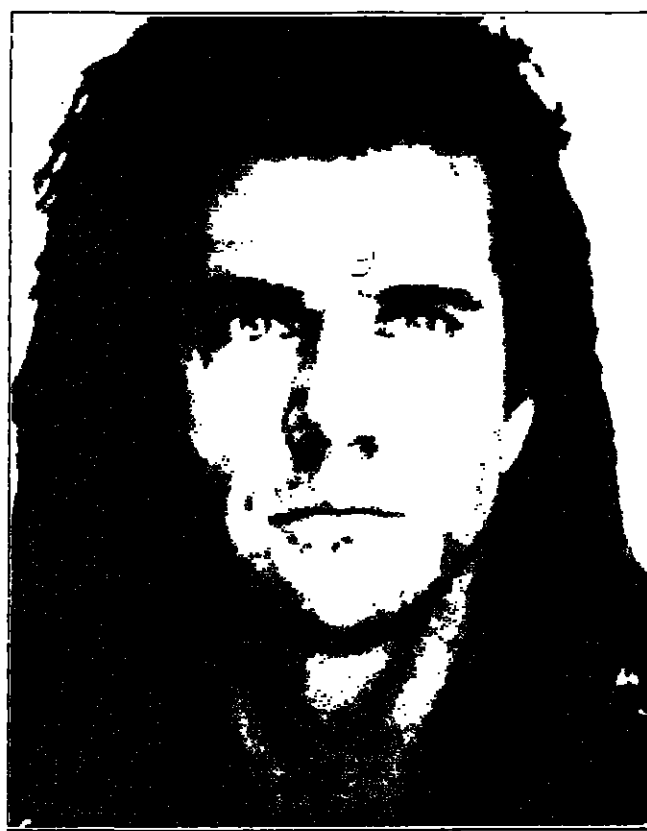
8:25—Rock Around the World
9:10—100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—P.S. I Luv U
12:00—Taurus Rising

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris: the Happy Professor
3:20—Captain Planet
3:45—Hot Shots
4:10—The Bob Morrison Show
4:35—AIF
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Encounter
8:00—Blossom
8:25—Deep Probe Expedition
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *Black Moon Rising*, starring, Tommy Lee Jones and Linda Hamilton

WEDNESDAY

3:00—The Flintstones
3:30—Iris
3:45—Bill Nye the Science Guy
4:10—Kelly
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Evening Shade
8:00—World Net
8:30—Chancer
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:15—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Airwolf



Mel Gibson in *Soffel*, on Saturday at 11:10pm

THURSDAY

3:00—Aladdin
3:30—NBA
4:35—Pirates
5:00—French Programs
7:35—Carol and Company
8:00—Taratata
9:00—Star Trek
10:00—News At Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Between Love & Honor*, starring, Grand Show and Maria Piliolo

FRIDAY

3:00—Iris the Happy Professor
3:15—Pebbles and Bamm Bam Show
3:40—Bush School
3:50—See How They Grow
4:00—Gillette World Sport Special
4:30—Give us a Cule
5:00—News Flash
5:00—French Programs

7:30—News Headline

7:35—Growing Pains
8:00—Nasty Boys
8:45—It Had To Be You
9:10—The Hanging Gale
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Classic Movie: *Show Boat*, starring Kathryn Geayson and Howard Keel

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Série Château Vallon
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Faut pas rêver

DIMANCHE

5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Magazine Envoyé spécial
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine Sports et musique

LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:15—Divertissement L'école des fans "Patrick Bruel"
6:00—Magazine Thalassa
7:00—Le journal

7:15—Magazine

Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Magazine Savoir plus santé
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine Ushuaia

MERCREDI

5:00—Dessins animés Ordy
5:30—Série Secret de famille
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine Sports et musique

JEUDI

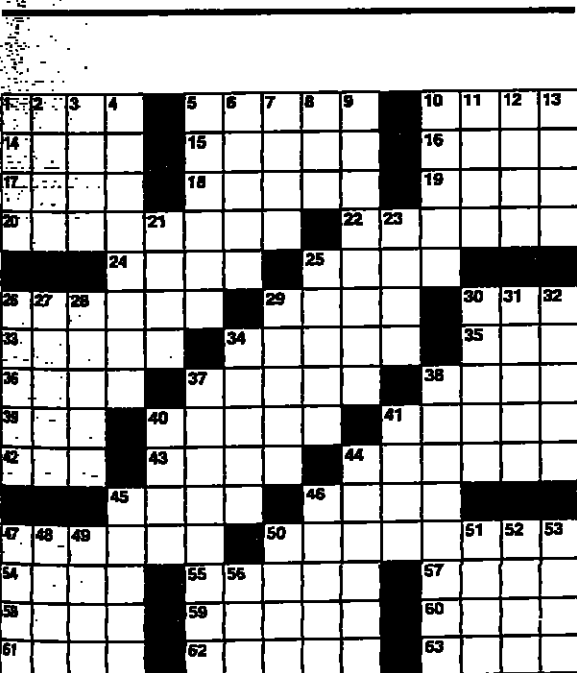
5:00—Dessin animé 5:30—Variétés Le monde est à vous "Serge Lama"
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine Archimède
8:00—Variétés Taratata "Robert Charlebois"

VENREDI

5:00—Dessins animés 5:30—Film "Les enfants de Lumière" Un film-documentaire sur les 100 ans du cinéma français
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine

Programs are subject to change by JTV

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Movie
5 Beneath
10 Liar
14 Swag
15 Large deer
18 Alternative
17 Thanks—
18 Read
19 A—
20 Ungrammatical term
22 Aiden's
24 Tardis
25 Secluded valley
26 Chin whiskers
29 Worry
30 Draft letters
32 Ready for war
34 Legal documents
36 Sombrero
38 Reimbursed
37 Region of China
38 Walker's aid
39 Common abhor.
40 Restrict
41 Strong point
42 Poor grade
43 Space
44 Footwear
45 Wallet
46 suffers
47 Civil wrong
48 Mount in Israel
50 Ireland's flower
54 Out of the wind
55 Other
57 Baking chamber
58 Party for man
59 Degradation
60 Behind time
61 Israeli dance
62 Cavalry sword
63 Large number
64 DOWN
1 —and attack
2 Aria
3 Implement
4 Swore to
5 Referee's relation
6 Stale loop
7 Agricultural unit
8 Wind
9 Oboe
10 Closed car
11 Secretary of state
12 Woe—I
13 Equal
21 Campus girl
22 Profits
23 Oboe
25 Stared open-mouthed
27 Speechify
28 Priest's vestment
29 Shank bone
30 Pottery fragment
31 Clara
32 Gender material
34 Citrus fruit
37 Enduring
38 Keeps in line
40 Byway
41 Agricultural unit
44 High flyer
45 The end
46 Topic
47 Ready money
48 Singing voice
49 Bring up
50 Wound with a dagger
51 Egg-shaped
52 Whale
53 Was aware
56 Exclamation of surprise

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The moon's in Cancer, favoring hands-on learning. There'll be a flurry of activity. Clean house and buy food.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Your luck changes for the better, although there's still a problem to resolve at home. Give in to one of your friend's demands.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Ask for what you want. You'll worry more about money with the sun now in Gemini, but that's OK.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). It's your turn at bat! The sun goes into your sign, making you practically invincible. Do be careful with your finances though.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You'll want a little more private time. Confer with your sweetheart. Clear up a misunderstanding before it gets worse.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be lucky with group activities and team sports. Finish up overdue assignments. You'll have more time to play with your friends, but don't ditch work.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your workload usually increases when the sun's in Gemini, because your supervisors get more active. They'll think of all kinds of new things to keep you busy.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Lofy thinking is easier for you when the sun's in Gemini. You can find just the right words. That will help you argue a point with a supervisor.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Start applying for whatever you want. Pick up the paperwork. Also have a meaningful conversation with a friend.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may decide to take on a partner. Pick one who gives you lots of autonomy. But first, handle finances.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have to work a little harder. Sell stuff to bring more money into your account.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're lucky with romance and games. You may not get to play much though — too much work to do.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). The sun in Gemini puts the spotlight on your home life. That should be going very well, with true love favored.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Learn to manage money this year, and you'll never have to worry about it again.

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Bridge

Neat Counterpunching
By Tannah Hirsch

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 5 4
♥ Q 9 5 3 2
♦ J 8 7 4
♣ K Q

WEST
♠ 10 2
♥ K 7 4
♦ A 10 9 5
♣ 8 7 5 4

EAST
♠ A 9 8 7 6 3
♥ A 8 6
♦ 6 3
♣ 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q J
♥ J 10
♦ K Q 2
♣ A J 10 9 2

The bidding:
East 2NT South 2NT West 3NT North 3NT

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

The battle over the ♣ ten baize has many elements in common with prize-fighting. Your timing must be perfect, your footwork quick and your counterpunching deadly.

After East's weak two-spade opening bid, North-South quickly landed in three no trump. North saw no point in introducing the weak five-card heart suit; had South been inter-

ested in that suit, a takeout double was available. Note that four hearts had no play while three no trump would have sneaked home against less-than-perfect defense.

West led a spade, and declarer encouraged mildly with the seven. Declarer won and could count six fast tricks since the clubs were running. There was no point in going after hearts — the defenders would have spades set up before declarer could cash any heart tricks, so the three tricks had to come from two or three diamonds and one more spade.

Declarer led the king of diamonds to the second trick. Had West taken the ace, declarer would have scored a knockout, but West neatly sidestepped the haymaker by holding up the ace. Since declarer could not revert to spades without establishing East's suit before a ninth trick was set up, the diamond queen was continued. West stepped up with the ace of diamonds and staggered South by returning the ten of diamonds.

Declarer tried to steal the fulfilling trick by winning the jack of diamonds and leading a spade, but East countered by rising with the ace and shifting to the ace of hearts and another. The king of hearts and nine of diamonds delivered the knockout blow.

Jumble

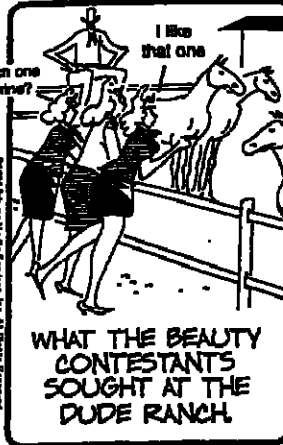
Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KELUF

YASAS

MULASY

BRITBA



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THEIR

ANSWER: What the beauty contestants sought at the dude ranch — THEIR

Words of Wisdom

Generosity toward others is a good measure of character.

...
If you doubt what you see, don't be so willing to believe everything you hear.

...
Luck is best taken advantage of by those who also are prepared.

...
Pessimist: One who discounts his blessings.

...
If you can't stand to be by yourself, perhaps you should work on improving your company.

...
A lie is a theft of truth.

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Mortgage and investment are crucial to Jordan's economy

ABDOUN REAL

Estate is one of the prominent real estate offices in Jordan. Mr. Wael Al Ja'abari, the general manager, told The Star that their policy is to build confidence with clients and put them at ease by being always punctual. Clients buy what they have exactly been shown. "We give them a complete picture about any project or property," Ja'abari said. "We consider clients as number one and they are always right."

Talking about mortgage in Jordan he said "We should facilitate loans and develop housing projects. All over the world people can get a mortgage for thirty years enabling them to own a house instead of renting one. In the long run, people will be paying JD 50,000 and end up paying JD 150,000 within thirty years. The idea is to make it easier for everybody to own a house," Ja'abari said.

He added that there should be housing projects for standard income people. "We should take care of those investing in Jordan and interested in Jordanian products," Ja'abari said. Their projects provide job opportunities for the unemployed and bolster the economy. The government must remove the obstacles which the investors face to facilitate their work.

There are countries which reached top levels in investment through free zones, he said. Some states like Dubai have wide range of investments and trading in the foreign currencies. Jordanians must think this way to attract foreign investment and currencies to Jordan, he added.

Ja'abari said he faced some difficulties in running his business. "We worked on couple of projects, one cost \$4 million. It took us almost a year to get financial sources," he said. "To keep this project going we should benefit from the experience of foreign investors." New procedures must be followed so that investors will not have to wait 4 or 6 months to get the approval of the government on the properties they want to buy. "I hope that the new government will set down new laws for investment to help the economy rise in a region witnessing new developments after the breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli relations, he concluded. ■

The **Star**
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Tel. 652380
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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Bientôt six milliards d'habitants

● Selon le dernier rapport du fonds de l'Onu pour la population, la planète franchira le cap des six milliards d'habitants dans deux ans. En 2050, la population mondiale oscillera entre 7,9 et 11,9 milliards d'habitants. L'essentiel de la croissance démographique repose sur le dynamisme des pays en voie de développement. Avec 2,7%, l'Afrique garde un taux record. Certains pays comme la Tanzanie, le Zaïre ou l'Éthiopie devraient doubler leur population en moins d'une génération. Quelques régions d'Asie et du Moyen-Orient connaissent une évolution similaire: avec 3,5% par an, l'Arabie Saoudite passera de 18 à 42 millions d'ici l'an 2025. L'Irak (+3%) passera de 21 à 42 millions et la Syrie (+3,3%) de 15 à 33 millions. L'Europe, l'Amérique du Nord et le Japon connaissent des niveaux faibles (respectivement +0,1%, +0,9%, +0,2% par an). Quelques pays comme l'Allemagne sont tombés au niveau zéro, ou ont une croissance négative (Russie, Ukraine: -0,2%). Les deux pays les plus peuplés du monde resteront bien sûr en 2025 la Chine, avec 1,5 milliard d'habitants, et l'Inde qui devrait prochainement dépasser le milliard et compter dans trente ans 1,3 milliards d'habitants.



Tourisme

Coup de froid sur la Jordanie

Le climat politique régional ne se prête guère en ce moment au tourisme. Après un bon premier trimestre, la Jordanie enregistre depuis avril un ralentissement de son activité touristique.



L'images des combats reprenant au Liban a largement contribué à dissuader beaucoup de touristes de venir dans la région ces deux derniers mois.

Mais l'actualité démontre une fois de plus que les efforts déployés par la Jordanie ne peuvent pas à eux seuls garantir le développement du secteur touristique. Le contexte régional joue en effet un rôle primordial, et tant

Sofad Retiti Ennimer

Un bon premier trimestre

Selon les chiffres du ministère jordanien du Tourisme, 223 612 touristes se sont rendus en Jordanie dans les trois premiers mois de l'année 1996, soit 19,25% de plus qu'en 1995 sur la même période. Si la plupart d'entre eux étaient américains ou européens, plus de 26 000 Israéliens sont venus visiter le royaume hachémite, soit là aussi près de 20% de plus que l'année précédente.

Des chiffres qui ne peuvent que rassurer le ministre du Tourisme Saleh Irshaidat qui table pour l'année 1996 sur une augmentation globale de 25% du nombre de visiteurs pour atteindre le chiffre global d'1 350 000 touristes.

Malheureusement, les troubles survenus dans les pays voisins et la tenue d'un scrutin à risques en Israël a considérablement ralenti le flux de visiteurs.

Juste après le déclenchement des opérations militaires israéliennes au Liban, Jérusalem estimait à 30% la baisse des réservations, et Tel-Aviv à 25%. Des annulations qui ont des retombées directes sur la Jordanie, puisque beaucoup de touristes visitent les deux pays à la fois.

Education

Un journal école en français

Pour la première fois, un journal école en langue française a été réalisé en Jordanie. Un projet qui a associé près de 400 élèves appartenant à une vingtaine d'établissements scolaires différents.

Une vingtaine d'établissements scolaires d'Amman, dans lesquels le français est enseigné en troisième langue, se sont associés pour réaliser un journal école baptisé «A bras ouverts».

Leur premier numéro vient de sortir au mois de mai, auquel près de 400 élèves ont participé. Une cinquantaine d'entre eux ont été publiés dans ce premier numéro, après une sélection des articles faite par un comité de rédaction comprenant des professeurs et des élèves.

Un concours était d'ailleurs organisé au sein des écoles pour primer les meilleurs articles, avec à la clé un séjour en France pour sept élèves. Ils seront accueillis pendant une dizaine de jours dans un collège français, et auront la possibilité de prolonger leur première expérience journalistique en collaborant sur place à un numéro spécial du journal «Vaucluse matin».

Le thème retenu pour ce concours était «la citoyenneté internationale des jeunes».

Voici les articles des deux lauréats, Dina Kayyali de

l'Ecole Nazareth, et Michel Biera de l'Ecole française d'Amman.

«Dans ce monde, il n'y a personne qui soit totalement méprisable, même les criminels parce que s'ils nous racontaient leur passé, il est certain qu'ils avaient un passé plein de problèmes, qu'ils auraient vécu des moments d'insécurité sans amour et qu'ils étaient défavorisés ce qui les a conduits à devenir délinquants, ayant des problèmes psychologiques et autrefois à commettre des actes criminels».

La partie la plus triste, c'est l'histoire qui se répète. Les millions d'enfants qui meurent de faim, de mauvais traitements chaque minute sans que personne ne s'en occupe.

Nous sommes à la fin du 20ème siècle, et on trouve des criminels qui vendent des enfants innocents, cela m'a choqué en lisant la presse qu'on puisse arriver à une telle bassesse.

Alors où sont leurs droits à la santé, à l'éducation, à la protection contre les mauvais traitements et le racisme? Où est leur droit le plus important: le droit de vivre en famille?

Il faut commencer à travailler pour le bonheur des enfants en leur assurant l'amour et la solidarité. On pourra réaliser un pas vers un meilleur avenir si on a des enfants heureux, bons élèves qui ont une bonne santé et un bon esprit: c'est le seul moyen qui permet de former de bons citoyens».

Dina Kayyali

«Lorsqu'on parle de la citoyenneté chez les jeunes, je pense à l'Ecole française d'Amman. Dans cet établissement, nous, élèves, parents et enseignants, constituons une petite communauté multinationale. Les élèves se connaissent tous, même ceux de la maternelle avec les terminales.

A côté des obligations scolaires, on a certains droits: les opinions et les initiatives individuelles sont bien appréciées. Les représentants des seconds degrés participent à la prise des décisions; cela aide à créer une ambiance bienveillante entre élèves et leurs enseignants. C'est par le dialogue et le compromis qu'on tente de résoudre les problèmes qui apparaissent. Evidemment un grand rôle appartient au personnel de l'école. Je pense qu'analoguement dans une communauté plus large le succès de la démocratie dépend aussi des qualités des dirigeants.

Le travail des professeurs est essentiel, mais aucun d'entre eux ne pourrait imposer sa domination intellectuelle: le programme est réalisé avec le CNEB. En conséquence les adolescents sont plus indépendants et peut-être plus responsables. Le respect mutuel est exigé par le règlement intérieur. Mon école est pour moi une petite école de citoyenneté. Elle montre comment exercer ses droits et ses devoirs civiques pour savoir les appliquer dans l'avenir».

Michel Biera

SELON

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Monsieur le

nouveau Premier ministre israélien. Vous êtes sans doute conscient de la chance que vous avez de prendre vos fonctions alors que les voisins ennemis d'hier sont désormais vos fidèles compagnons. M. Shamir doit vous enlever de «régner» alors que la guerre des pierres s'est transformée en guerre des frères, et que d'autres se chargent aujourd'hui de liquider les terroristes palestiniens.

Vous continuerez à profiter du robinet financier américain qui vous versera cette année la modeste somme de trois milliards de dollars. Dans le monde entier, Israël ne manque pas d'amis. Mais c'est votre peuple qui vous privera du sommeil et qui vous causera angoisse, stress et mélancolie.

Vous aurez à lutter contre la ségrégation raciale et les différents conflits ethniques qui déchirent votre société. Vous aurez à affronter les «Yeshivot Heder» qui ont en réserve d'autres Yigal Amir. Il vous faudra aussi redonner confiance à vos citoyens effrayés par le processus de paix.

Vous serez aussi confronté à la difficile tâche d'apaiser le mécontentement de vos citoyens modernes contre la mainmise des religieux préhistoriques dans leur vie quotidienne. Vos soucis vont s'orienter du côté de vos militaires qui s'agitent, et au sein desquels un certain général Hen Anallizia appelle les soldats à la désobéissance en cas d'évacuation des colonies.

Durant vos longues nuits d'insomnie, vous aurez du temps pour penser à votre nation où bientôt un habitant sur cinq sera arabe et où l'on danse la nuit du sabbat dans les night-clubs de Talpote à quelques mètres seulement d'un quartier religieux voisin où l'on incendie parfois quelques années les cafés qui osaient ouvrir pendant la journée du sabbat.

Vous avez, Monsieur le Premier ministre, la malchance de gouverner un peuple insinuit qui commence à découvrir les menaces de certains de vos prédécesseurs, comme les massacres de civils palestiniens en 1947 ou les tueries de soldats égyptiens désarmés. De Sabra à Cana, la vue d'enfants en pièces déchirées a dégoûté vos citoyens qui se souviennent encore de crimes aussi affreux commis à leurs égards voilà un demi-siècle.

Vous savez sans doute que la France, qui a toujours été de votre côté, commence à se poser des questions au sujet de votre innocence, et que de nombreux intellectuels émettent des doutes à propos de la mystique de l'Etat juif, aidés sans doute par les images de vos victimes sur les écrans de télévision.

Le cauchemar commence pour vous, Monsieur le Premier ministre, et vous n'avez pas fini d'avaloir des antidépresseurs et des anxiolytiques pour vous aider à sortir votre pays du nationalisme tribal et le conduire vers l'égalité des races et le respect des autres ethnies.

Votre ami Jean-Paul Sartre a écrit voilà vingt ans que l'Etat d'Israël était sur le point d'être dynamité de l'intérieur. Vous allez certainement maintenant tout faire pour éviter l'explosion de votre nation. Sachez en tout cas que le fait de se remettre en question n'est pas un déshonneur. Et bon courage, Monsieur le Premier ministre israélien.

Souhail Al Sweis

Tourisme

Amman, une ville sans capital

Malgré les efforts de certaines agences de tourisme, peu de touristes passent plus d'une journée dans la capitale jordanienne. Ils ne lui trouvent en effet que peu d'intérêt, et ne s'y arrêtent que pour avoir un pied-à-terre et profiter des sites qui l'entourent.

«Laissez-nous

vous faire découvrir un endroit resté vierge pendant de longues années et resté à l'abri des voyageurs modernes, un endroit dans lequel les habitants accueillent les étrangers comme s'ils faisaient partie de leur famille». C'est ainsi qu'est présentée la Jordanie dans une brochure touristique de l'un des plus grands hôtels d'Amman. Depuis qu'ils ont rétabli la paix dans la région, et surtout en Jordanie, les secteurs privés et publics cherchent en effet à promouvoir «la Jordanie touristique» dans le monde entier.

Petra est devenu un site pratiquement incontournable dans la région. Un lieu rendu très touristique grâce à sa grande richesse, mais aussi parce que les campagnes de développement du tourisme en Jordanie parlent depuis des années surtout de Petra. Le royaume hachémite n'a en effet pas encore réussi à vendre de la même façon ses autres richesses.

«Amman est sur la route de Jérash, de Petra, ou de la mer morte», explique Hala Khoury, une des responsables de l'Hôtel Marriott à Amman. Si on ne mettrait pas l'accent sur Petra ou Jérash, personne ne viendrait à Amman, malgré les quelques sites touristiques qui se trouvent dans cette ville.

Amman n'est pas faite pour attirer les touristes et les agences ne s'efforcent pas vraiment de la vendre.

«Quand on vend la Jordanie, on la vend comme une unité complète, du nord jusqu'au sud», explique Ghada Najjar de United Travel Agency. Amman est une ville dans laquelle les touristes sont obligés de passer, mais dans laquelle ils ne souhaitent guère rester. Ils passent en moyenne deux à trois nuits



Avec son architecture très moderne et son manque d'animation, Amman a bien du mal à séduire les touristes qui n'y passent pas en général plus d'une journée.

dans la capitale jordanienne. Une journée est généralement consacrée à la visite de la ville. «Amman est divisée en plusieurs circuits touristiques», commente Ghada Najjar. Les deux musées, l'amphithéâtre romain, les vestiges d'Iraq el Amir... Ensuite, on leur montre le côté moderne d'Amman et enfin son artisanat.

Une ville de passage

Si Amman est bien au cœur du pays, son centre-ville manque de vie. «Ca ne bouge pas beaucoup», déplore Osama Salati, directeur des hôtels filiales Commodore et Midale East. «Pendant la journée, les touristes visitent les villes autour d'Amman, mais la nuit, quand ils reviennent qu'est-ce

qu'ils ont à faire?» s'interroge-t-il.

Jumana Sabenagh, une des responsables de l'agence de tourisme Top Tours dresse le même constat. «On peut faire le tour d'Amman en une journée. Et le soir, en fonction de leurs budgets, les touristes demandent de temps en temps un groupe de folklore jordanien».

Les touristes qui se rendent en Jordanie ont généralement entre 45 et 60 ans de moyenne d'âge.

Beaucoup recherchent la tranquillité, surtout pendant la saison d'automne et pendant les printemps. «Un touriste qui vient en Jordanie ne cherche pas la modernité de la ville. Au contraire, il veut la fuir», explique Khoury.

Promouvoir Amman en al-

longeant la durée des séjours n'est donc pas des plus faciles.

Surtout que cette ville se trouve au milieu d'une région très touristique qui offre beaucoup. «En général, les agences organisent des circuits sur plusieurs pays, et le temps est très limité», explique Najjar.

Pour Amman, il est donc bien difficile de concurrencer d'autres destinations de la région pour essayer de devenir un lieu réellement touristique.

La capitale jordanienne semble en effet condamnée à rester une ville de passage, qui donne accès à de superbes sites comme Madaba, Jérash ou la mer morte.

Oroub el Abed

Politique

Le cap des cent jours réveille l'opposition

Cent jours après sa formation, le gouvernement de Karim Abdoul Kabariti qui a promis «la révolution blanche» affronte aujourd'hui une première vague de protestations. L'opposition s'est en effet réveillée et lui reproche de ne pas tenir ses promesses. Des analystes politiques donnent leur avis.

Quelques analystes constatent que ce gouvernement est arrivé «avec de grands espoirs» qui sont difficiles à réaliser, en tenant compte des ressources de la Jordanie.

D'autres notent que la faillite principale du gouvernement est sa politique extérieure, son équipe ministérielle ou plus précisément son équipe économique. Les analystes, toutefois, admettent que la période de 100 jours est un peu courte pour juger la performance du gouvernement dans son ensemble.

Selon un analyste, ancien ministre lui-même, qui préfère garder l'anonymat, la déception des Jordaniens vis-à-vis de la «révolution blanche annoncée» ne tient pas en premier lieu à l'incapacité du gouvernement de transformer la Jordanie du jour au lendemain en un pays démocratique, mais plutôt à sa politique économique incohérente. Pour lui, le gouvernement a du mal à poursuivre avec succès les réformes entreprises depuis 1989 par les gouvernements précédents.

Selon lui, la Jordanie a par contre enregistré des progrès notables dans le domaine des libertés publiques, et ce malgré les protestations de l'opposition. «La situation est plus délicate maintenant», explique-t-il. Et pour lui, toute la polémique qui entoure le projet gouvernemental de réforme de la loi du syndicat des journalistes exprime clairement le refus de certains d'accepter tout changement.

Le ministre de l'Information Marwan Mouasher a en effet proposé d'introduire une nouvelle loi pour le syndicat des journalistes, l'ancienne datant de 1983. Le syndicat redoute aujourd'hui celle loi, arguant qu'il doit être consulté auparavant. M. Mouasher a lui assuré qu'aucune réforme ne serait appliquée sans discussion préalable au sein de la commission judiciaire de la chambre basse

des députés. Pour M. Mouasher, ce projet de réforme ministérielle serait la loi du syndicat des journalistes et permettrait notamment à deux tiers des journalistes jordaniens, qui ne sont pas syndiqués, de pouvoir devenir membres du syndicat.

Des rumeurs de démission

Le parti du Front d'action islamique (FAI) s'est montré très virulent à l'égard du gouvernement, critiquant son action comme jamais il ne l'avait fait dans le passé.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié deux jours seulement après une rencontre entre le Premier ministre et les leaders islamistes, le secrétaire général du FAI, Ishaq Farhan, a décrit la performance du gouvernement comme n'étant «pas sérieuse du tout». Il s'en est violemment pris à «l'incapacité de ce gouvernement de tenir ses promesses».

La presse a elle fait état de dissensions au sein de ce jeune gouvernement. Selon certains hebdomadaires, cinq ministres seraient déjà sur le point de démissionner.

Pour un spécialiste de la politique jordanienne, «le gouvernement ne serait pas dans l'impasse s'ils parvenaient à avoir de meilleurs résultats économiques et s'il manifestait réellement sa volonté de lutter contre la corruption». Pour lui, cependant, il est trop tôt pour parler d'un remaniement ministériel.

Le roi Hussein (voir encadré) a d'ailleurs lui-même renouvelé sa confiance à ce gouvernement à l'occasion de la commémoration du cinquantième anniversaire de l'indépendance de la Jordanie, jugeant que des changements ne pouvaient être réalisés qu'avec «la détermination et le travail de tous les Jordaniens».

Sa'eda Kilani



Pour le gouvernement de M. Abdoul Karim Kabariti, il s'agit désormais de réaliser la «révolution blanche» annoncée lors de sa nomination voilà cent jours.

Le roi Hussein se montre confiant

«Avec un peu de patience et beaucoup de confiance, nous atteindrons sûrement nos objectifs», a déclaré le roi Hussein au cours d'une allocution télévisée à l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de l'indépendance du royaume.

«La situation ne peut pas changer en un jour et une nuit, mais elle s'améliorera sûrement», a ajouté le souverain. L'amélioration de la situation économique est l'objectif prioritaire que s'était fixé le gouvernement Kabariti qui veut lutter contre le chômage, affectant environ 20% de la population active, et relancer l'économie encore marquée par les retombées de la guerre du Golfe et qui doit supporter une dette extérieure de plus de cinq milliards de dollars.

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

«Un cœur en hiver», de Claude Sautet avec Emmauelle Béart, Daniel Auteuil... Le 3 juin à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.

Expositions

Yvan Pommaux et Christophe Besse, illustrateurs de livres pour enfants, exposent leurs planches jusqu'au 31 mai au Centre culturel français.

Rafic Majzoub, artiste s'inscrivant dans la mouvance de «l'art brut», expose ses toiles à partir du 3 juin au CCF.

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	620101	Plaza Cinema	699238
British Council	6361478	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Greek Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Y.W.M.A.	664251		
Darat al Funun	643252		
Alia Art Gallery	639303		
Baladna Art Gallery	657132		
Nabl Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabl & Hisham's Theatre	625155		

Airlines

Algerian	641271/2	Adria Airways	667029
Australian	673246/7	Aeroflot	641510
Austrian	644635	Aeromexico	694802
Bahraini	664148/9	Air Canada	630879
Brazilian	642183	Air France	666055/667824
Belgian	675683	Air India	688301/2
Bulgarian	618151	Air Lanka	682140
Canadian	666124	Alitalia	625203
Chilean	623360	Alyemda (Air yemen)	653691
Cyprus Honorary Cons	677559	American Airlines	669068
Czech	671813/666135	Arab Wings	894484
Danish Consulate Gen	603703	Austrian Airlines	693845/694604
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676	Balkan Airlines	665909
French	641273/4	British Midland	694802
German	689351	British Airways	828801
Greek	671331/2	Cathay Pacific	628596
Hungarian	815614	China Airlines	636232
Icelandic Consulate	698851	Cyprus Airways	667028
Indian	637262	Delta Air Lines	643661
Indonesian	628911	Egypt Air	630011
Iraqi	639231	Emirates Airlines	643341
Italian	638185	Gulf Air	653613
Japanese	672486/7	Hungarian Airlines	622275
Kuwait	675135/8	Iberia	637827/644036
Libyan	693101/3	Iran Air	622826
Lebanese	641381	Japan Air Lines	630879
Mexican	641451	KLM	622175
Netherlands	619699/1	Korean Airlines	676624/662236
New Zealand Consulate	636720	Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
North Korean	666349	Lufthansa	601744
Norwegian Embassy	644932/4	Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
Omani	686155	MEA	636104
Pakistani	622787	Olympic	630125/638433
Palestine	677517	Philippine Airlines	640200
People's Rep. of China	666139	PIA	625981
Philippines	645161	Polish Airlines	625981
Polish	637153	Qantas	862288
Qatari	682666	Royal Jordanian	678321
Romanian	667738	Saudia	639333
Russian	641158	Scandinavian Airlines	604499
Saudi Arabian	814154/6	Singapore Airlines	676177
Slovenia Honorary Cons	861542	Sudan Airways	694501
Sri Lanka Consulate	645312	Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	659791/641906
South Korean	660745/6	Syrian Air	622147
South Africa	811194	United Airlines	641959
Spanish	614166/9	USAir	694801/2
Sudanese	644251/2	TAROM-Romanian	637380
Swedish	669177/9	Thai Airways	637195
Swiss	686416/7	Trans World Airline	623430
Syrian	641076	Turkish Airlines	659102
Taiwan	671530	Yemenia Airways	628175
Tunisian	674307/8	Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
Turkish	641251	RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200
U.A.E.	643347/643341		
United Kingdom	823100		
United States	820101		
Yemen	642381		
EEC Delegation	668191		
ESCWA	694351/8		
ICRC	688645		
UNDP/WFP	668171/7		
UNRWA	607398		
UNICEF	629571		
UNESCO	606559		

Aqaba Hotels

Al-Cazar	314131
Aqaba	314091
Aqaba Gulf Hotel	316636
Aquamarina I	316250
Coral Beach	313521
Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramar	314340

Important Numbers

Emergencies

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Civil Defence H.Q.	193/198/199
Fire Brigade	622090/93
Ambulance	199
Blood Bank	775121
Traffic Police	625943/639703
Traffic Accidents	897467/8
Highway Police	787111

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Akleh Maternity	642441/2
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Amal Hospital	674155
Army, Marka	891611/15
Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaledi Maternity	642817/6
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Shmeisani Hospital	607431
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
University Hospital	845845

General

Amman Municipality	843402
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Hotel complaints	(08)53200
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THE STAR'S WORKING COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NO

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Have you noticed:
Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is turning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star@NETS.com.jo with your views. We and our readers want to know them.

'Intranets' begin to appear in Jordan, but what are they? Local-level Internet

By Jihad Abdullah
Special to the Star

THE INTERNET is viewed as the network that links the world through computers, modems and telephone networks, due to the fact that its contents were available on a global level, without any actual limitations.

However, this very global characteristic causes some practical problems, such as lack of security and privacy.

This has led to the appearance of the "intranet", which is simply a local Internet, with no major technical differences.

Intranet networks use the same Internet Protocol (IP), and deal with data in the same manner, by depending on TCP/IP. The difference comes, practically, from the server.

While Internet treats the server as an external unit, without a firewall in many cases, the intranet uses an internal server, that is usually protected with a firewall to maintain access to it as an exclusive right to only authorized users.

On the software side, the same software uses to navigate Internet is utilized for intranet surfing. Users may benefit from the popular browsers they may already have.



such as Mosaic, Netscape Navigator, or Alis Tango.

Intranets mainly provide the valuable function of maintaining corporate privacy, and the possi-

company, by a consultancy firm called Business Optimization Consultants (BOC), in cooperation with Specialized Technical Services (STS).

The Aramex Intranet will provide integrated hardware and software intranet solutions, based on Sun servers provided by STS, and optimized software solutions utilizing Netscape from BOC. The idea is to use HTML-based server management utilizing the browser concept.

Jihad Abdullah is the Managing Editor of *Byte Middle East* magazine, and the editor of 'Internet World' weekly page in *Ad Dustour* daily.

Microsoft 'Power Solutions' hits Amman

DURING MAY and June, Microsoft is touring the Middle East to demonstrate its new generation of applications, featuring its latest two additions to Microsoft Back Office.

The Microsoft Internet Information Server is a powerful platform for a new generation of Web applications. Microsoft Exchange Server integrates email, electronic forms and groupware applications on a single platform to be managed with centralized, easy-to-use administration.

The tour is organized in cooperation with Compaq Computer Middle East, under the title of 'Corporate Power Solutions'. Last week, on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23, 1996, Microsoft displayed these solutions here in Amman, in cooperation with Jordan Data Systems, the Compaq Computer distributors in Jordan, and Specialized Technical Services (STS), master distributors for Microsoft in Jordan.

The idea is to demonstrate how Microsoft Windows NT and Compaq's P5 systems work together as the corporate choice, providing a 'view of the future of the IT industry'.

For more information on Microsoft's communications software Server, contact STS at telephone 827611.

An external modem series offering speed and functionality: Sportster 14.400 from U.S. Robotics

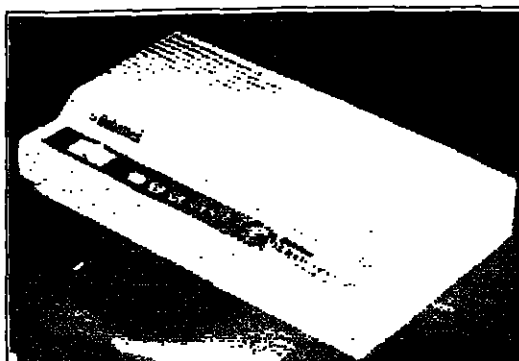
SAADI COMMUNICATION Systems (SCS) are introducing U.S. Robotics modems to the Jordanian market, to meet with the increased demand for data communications products.

One of the latest modems on offer is the Sportster, a 14.4 bps range of modems specifically designed for small business, home office and personal use. It's an external unit, which is suitably sized to fit anywhere on your desk, near your computer.

U.S. Robotics has been building and designing modems since 1976. Sportster incorporates the same proven U.S. Robotics technology that users worldwide have come to depend on.

It's easy to use. Just plug it into your computer and phone

line, and in five minutes you're ready to check e-mail, chat on a bulletin board, navigate the Inter-



communications software packages, and can be adjusted to hardware / software require-

ments with, easy-to-reach DIP switches. It supports 14,400 bps Group III fax and transmits data at 14,400 bps with V.42 bis/MNP 5 data compression, for throughput up to 57,600 bps.

Visual indicators, that make it easier to monitor your modems performance, are included. These take the form of seven front panel Status Lights.

The U.S. Robotics package includes modem, manual, AC adapter, RJ11C phone cord, fax and communication software.

For more information on the Sportster and other products from U.S. Robotics, contact Saadi Communication Systems (SCS) at telefax 693353.

News update

Novell Middle East run an innovative campaign and competition

Novell Middle East is currently running a NetWare awareness campaign in leading Middle East IT magazines. Each advertisement provides a different fact about Novell NetWare 4.1.

All you have to do to win an impressive Pison personal organizer is to find the 12 facts used in the NetWare 4.1 Novell Middle East advertising campaign.

wire them down and fax them to Novell Middle East before 31 July, 1996.

The first correct entry to be drawn from the replies will receive a Pison Organizer. Fax your entries to ++971 4 319248.

Silicon Graphics unveils 'Reality Immersion Technology' for Nintendo 64

Silicon Graphics, Inc. and its microprocessor subsidiary, MIPS Technologies, Inc. revealed their "Reality Immersion Technology" as part of the debut of Nintendo 64, home video game system.

The technology combines Silicon Graphics' powerful digital media and visual computing technologies with MIPS' RISC processor technology to create the first immersive, highly-realistic home video game system.

Representing a new age of video game entertainment, Nintendo 64 utilizes a specific custom implementation of this advanced computer technology to enable players to step inside real-time, unconstrained, three-dimensional worlds, and become part of the game itself.

Nintendo 64 puts Silicon Graphics' powerful visual computing technology into the hands of everyday consumers.

The Reality Co-Processor,

designed specifically by Silicon Graphics for Nintendo, combines the most advanced features necessary to create the Nintendo 64 real-time game environment.

Nintendo 64 will be available from Nintendo. Application software will be supplied by Nintendo and its authorized licensees.

The new JCS administrative committee

Last month witnessed the election of the sixth administrative committee for the Jordan Computer Society, the professional body that represents the sector in Jordan.

The winners of the seven seats were as follows: Mr. Karim Kassar, Mr. Amjad Al Oubwa, Dr. Yasser Al Hussein, Ms. Hanada Haddadin, Mr. Hussein Seesam, Mr. Mohammed Mujahid and Ms. Rana Al Khalil.

On the agenda of this new committee are a number of current matters including stepping up activities regarding the society's housing project for its members, finding new head quarters for the society, establishing a data bank for corporate and personal uses, introducing a new membership law and, finally, focusing on educating the public about the importance of intellectual property rights.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Jordan BBS explosion

IN THE coming few months, it is expected that a number of new bulletin board services (BBS's) will have obtained licenses to start operation in the Jordanian market, entering a well-established sector currently dominated by pioneering companies such as NETS and Access.

Considering the fact that, between the two of them, Access and NETS have well over 1,500 active users, one has to stop to think about the potential market left at this stage for new BBS operators.

Of course, more Jordanian users will obtain modems and will be interested in 'linking-up' to a service, so their will be growth worth capitalizing on. However, the explosive rate of growth witnessed by current BBS's, especially NETS, may never happen again.

It is difficult to imagine a mass immigration of users from a service they have gotten used to, onto a new one just because it offers a number of extras such as more varied information or better software-functionality.

Also, there's another important factor, that these early BBS efforts benefited from. That is, the misconception among the Jordanian public that being on a BBS is just like being on the Internet. I personally heard tens of people say things like 'I hooked up the Internet recently', when what they actually meant was that they subscribed to a BBS.

Up until the end of last year, the differences between an on-line service, such as a BBS, and full Internet were not yet clear to most Jordanian users. As a matter of fact, BBS operators admit that they created many of their accounts at the time through the impression that their services were Internet-related. The Internet craze had begun to sweep the country and everyone was anxious to gain email services, to start with, which BBS's did actually offer. So, that's just what happened. BBS's were a success.

BBS operators provide email services by establishing a link with an Internet server abroad at which the BBS has an Internet account. That way, a user's email is shifted to that account, and from there, onto the Internet where it finds its destination. Receiving email also follows the same rule. Email is addressed to the NETS or Access address on a server, which is then down-loaded by the BBS operator in Jordan and distributed among clients locally.

When Global One/Sprint Jordan began to offer actual Internet services in the country, starting March this year, the difference between a BBS and Internet-proper became clearer. In fact, a sizable number of Internet customers in the past few months have been BBS users, who now enjoy both kinds of services.

All over the world, the largest on-line services—which are basically huge BBS's—are gearing themselves more towards the Internet. Services like America On-Line and CompuServe offer Internet gateways, to allow subscribers to enjoy the best of both worlds and to ensure that users will stick to these services.

Will BBS operators in Jordan be able to offer such Internet gateways to users, through leased lines to the Internet? Perhaps, but this is a question that should be directed to Global One/Sprint Jordan, the only Internet Service provider (ISP) in the country. For now, it doesn't look like there will be any such arrangement. Global One/Sprint Jordan only offers Internet access directly, while NETS and Access still shift and receive email in the same way explained above.

How that may change when a new ISP, other than Global One/Sprint Jordan, enters the market is not clear as of yet.

Still, more BBS providers mean a more active on-line community in the country; something that can only be positive.

In the next few weeks, we'll know more 'official' information about at least one of these new BBS's.

Let's wait and see how this latest entrant into the BBS battle in Jordan will present itself and what it will offer users that is new, innovative and worthwhile.

Hill looking to return to winning ways in Barcelona

AMMAN (Star)—World championship leader Damon Hill is looking to bounce back to winning ways at the Spanish Grand Prix on Sunday 2 June, following his disappointment in Monaco. Although he failed to finish the race in Monaco, the sixth round of the FIA Formula One World Championship, Hill still retained a 21 point lead in the title chase over his Renault teammate Jacques Villeneuve, who was one of the many top drivers to fall by the wayside in the dramatic 75 lap race.

"We were very disappointed with the results in Monaco, but at least none of my nearest rivals scored points and so the gap in the championship remains the same," said Hill, who won the race in Barcelona in 1994. "We still have a lot of races to come."

"As soon as I got out of the car after my 12 laps I knew I had gone too early. At Monaco you cannot afford to be sitting there watching the last ten minutes. The reason I went early because I wanted to improve my grid position and with 20 minutes to go there was a clear period, with nobody on the track. Once out of the car I had a really strong feeling that it hadn't been the right moment to make my effort and sure enough Michael went quicker."



Damon Hill is ready to bounce back



Jacques Villeneuve is at the chase

Hill said. Villeneuve will be making his racing debut at the 4.727 km (2.937 mile) circuit on the outskirts of Barcelona, first used for the Spanish Grand Prix in 1991. The race was won by Nigel Mansell, setting up four successive victories for the Williams team round the

bumpy and demanding track. The sequence was broken last year when World Champion Michael Schumacher was a comfortable winner of the race from his then Benetton teammate, Johnny Herbert, with Hill dropping from second to fourth on the last lap with a mechanical problem.

Schumacher said after tugging with Gerhard Berger, during qualifying. "The incident with Gerhard was purely my fault. I thought the session had finished. The moment I saw him in my mirrors I got on the throttle in order to go straight on and leave him a clear line. Obviously he was braking very late and he spun off."

Many other drivers will be hoping to erase Monaco memories in Barcelona including the Jordan Peugeot duo of Rubens Barrichello and Martin Brundle. Eddie Irvine and Jos Verstappen.

The Spanish Grand Prix had been held at five different circuits. The first race was held on the Pedralbes street circuit in the suburbs of Barcelona in 1951. Seventeen years later the grand prix returned alternating between Jarama and Montjuich park, which was the site of the 1992 Olympic Games. The Jerez circuit in Southern Spain then took over the running of the race until it returned to Barcelona and the new Catalunya circuit in 1991.

The 65 lap race, 307.255km (191.69 mile), the seventh round of the FIA Formula One World Championship, starts at 14.00 hrs local time.

England's squad for Euro '96

LONDON—Ex-England striker Gary Lineker, whose own international career was brought to what many believe was a premature end, believes Terry Venables has made a major mistake by dropping Newcastle's Peter Beardsley for Euro '96.

Lineker and Beardsley shared a formidable attacking partnership from the 1986 World Cup where they helped guide England into the quarter-finals, before losing to Argentina 2-1.

"I think Peter is still the best player in the country for that role just behind the front players," Lineker told *The Sun* newspaper on Tuesday. "If you analyze the situation, Peter has had a much better season than Nick Barmby. But Barmby gets a couple of goals against China and he's in. That's harsh."

"When you think of the strength of opposition Barmby got his goals against, it's tough on Peter Beardsley."

The 22-strong England squad was named Tuesday. In the 1992, championship the then England manager Graham Graham substituted



Football striker Les Ferdinand joins the team

Lineker 27 minutes before the end of the defeat by Sweden. The striker subsequently retired from the international game.

David Seaman (Arsenal), Tim Flowers (Blackburn), Ian Walker (Tottenham), Gary Neville (Manchester United), Tony Adams (Arsenal), Gareth Southgate (Aston Villa), Steve Howey (Newcastle), Sol Campbell (Tottenham), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Philip Neville (Manchester United), Dar-

ren Anderson (Tottenham), Steve Stone (Nottingham Forest), Paul Gascoigne (Rangers), Paul Ince (Inter Milan), David Platt (Arsenal), Jamie Redknapp (Liverpool), Steve McManaman (Liverpool), Les Ferdinand (Newcastle), Robbie Fowler (Liverpool), Nick Barmby (Middlesbrough), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham), Alan Shearer (Blackburn).

Danes blend youth and veterans in Euro '96 team

COPENHAGEN—Denmark coach Richard Moeller Nielsen opted for a mix of experience, personified by the Laudrup brothers, and youth on Tuesday when he named his 22-man squad to defend the European soccer championship.

Veterans who helped Denmark to become surprise champions four years ago include goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, striker Brian Laudrup, defender Lars Olsen and midfielder Kim Vilfort, who scored five goals in the qualifying matches this time.

Brian Laudrup, who will spearhead the Danish attack and his midfielder brother

Michael of Real Madrid—the squad's captain but absent by choice four years ago—will play key roles.

Michael Laudrup ruled himself out in Sweden four years ago after a bitter conflict with Moeller Nielsen over tactics and leadership style but he returned to the fold in 1993.

Young but tested talent includes defenders Jacob Laurson and Jens Risager and midfielder Michael Schjoenberg. Strikers Stig Toefling and Soeren Andersen, however, are both new entrants to the national side.

Denmark, who have lost only one match in the past 17

months, are drawn in group D with Croatia, Portugal and Turkey. They play their first match, against Portugal at Hillsborough, on 9 June.

Denmark were drafted into the 1992 tournament only as late replacements for Yugoslavia, who were top in their qualifying group but were prevented from competing by the outbreak of war.

Squad:

Goalkeepers - Peter Schmeichel (Manchester United, England), Lars Hoegh (Odense, Germany), Erik Bo Andersen (Glasgow Rangers, Scotland), Stig Toefling (Aarhus), Soeren Andersen (Aalborg).

Midfielders - Claus Thomsen (Ipswich, England), Kim Vilfort (Broendby), Henrik Larsen (Lyngby), Brian Steen Nielsen (Odense), Michael Laudrup (Real Madrid, Spain), Allan Nielsen (Broendby), Michael Schjoenberg (Odense).

Strikers - Brian Laudrup (Glasgow Rangers, Scotland), Mikkel Beck (Fortuna Cologne, Germany), Erik Bo Andersen (Glasgow Rangers, Scotland), Stig Toefling (Aarhus), Soeren Andersen (Aalborg).



Michael Schumacher (center), in earlier winning moments